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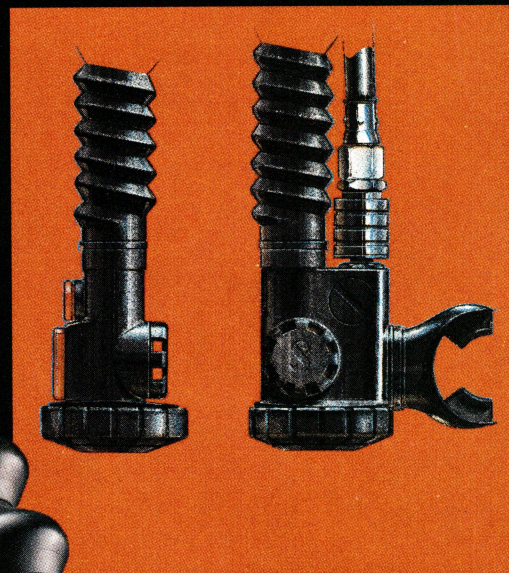
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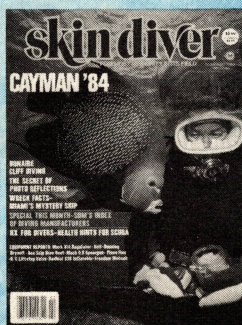
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skin diver

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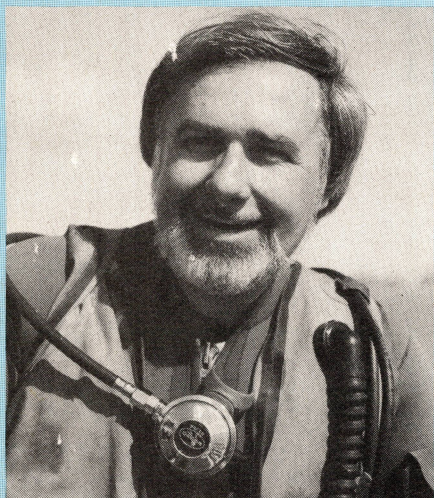
COVER

Actress Melanie Vincz feeds a French angelfish on the wreck of the Oro Verde off Grand Cayman. For more on the exciting diving in this area see the Cayman Islands section on page 65. Photo/Geri Murphy.

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SDM Editorial

BY THE PUBLISHER



INACTIVITY: THE DIVER'S WORST ENEMY

Winter is now in full swing. In some parts of the country, February brings bone-chilling winds, and snow and ice on the local ponds.

For many divers, the beginning of winter means stowing away scuba gear until spring. Diving loses its appeal when the temperature drops and the wind blows fiercely. Unfortunately, the human body cannot be stored away as easily as a tank or regulator. Inactivity is the diver's worst enemy, as muscles and the circulatory system soon begin to deteriorate if not exercised regularly.

Aside from outdoor sports, Americans are basically a sedentary society. We drive to the corner store instead of walking; we take the elevator in lieu of climbing the stairs; and we spend many hours in front of the television watching sporting events instead of participating. Meanwhile, our body functions dwindle to minimal activity status. Our lungs rarely expand to more than half their total capacity, and our hearts beat at slightly above idling speed. Muscles that were once firm and tough begin to turn to jelly. After one month of this kind of inactivity, most of the diver's physical fitness will have faded substantially. Two months away from the water will turn even a super diver into a blob.

A program of regular exercise is essential to maintaining fitness for diving. The seasonal enthusiast faces a crucial period in the spring when he attempts to get back into diving. He no longer has the advantage of the preliminary training and conditioning which preceded his first open water check-out. Now he is trying to make a comeback with one quick step from the sofa to the open sea. Although the spirit may be willing, the body may not be.

Thinking about diving or talking about diving does not help to regain the stamina or scuba proficiency of last season. It is dangerous to attempt to rationalize the situation by thinking, "I won't get into a jam because I know my limitations." Out-of-shape divers have no idea of their limitations, since they have not been near the water for months.

The best way to avoid the pain of re-conditioning your body is by not permitting it to get out of shape in the first place. Maintaining a minimum degree of scuba fitness is far easier than beginning the long hard struggle back from months of inactivity. How can you stay fit for diving? The diver has different options available depending on where he/she lives, how much time is available, and what contacts he/she has with other divers.

Perhaps the best way of remaining fit for diving is to continue diving throughout the winter. If you can make a couple of dive trips each month, you'll find it much easier going in the spring. Obviously, this is not possible in all parts of the country, but it is certainly an option available to those who live in California or Florida. You might consider taking a couple of short dive vacations or trips during the winter months, as this provides an excellent opportunity to exercise under more pleasurable environmental conditions. A quick trip to the Caribbean or Hawaii can result in six to ten dives in a surprisingly short period of time.

Those divers who live in northern parts of the U.S., where winter is more severe, may not find it as easy to get out for an open water dive. Strong winds and frequent storms make it virtually impossible to plan weekend dive trips. However, a good alternative is to seek some form of activity at an indoor swimming pool. The most obvious is to swim laps at the local pool, making regular visits three times a week. For minimal scuba fitness maintenance, a quarter to half mile swim is recommended. And to help things along, this swim should be done using fins, mask, and snorkel. Some divers even wear six


pounds of lead weight to make the swim more vigorous.

For years many YMCAs have conducted a fitness program called, "Swim for Life." Each swimmer keeps track of the distance he/she swims in an exercise session by marking it in on a large chart. The goal of this program is to swim 50 to 100 miles over a six-month period. The same rules could be utilized for a "Scuba for Life" program.

If you find that swimming laps is a bit too boring and you seek a more challenging program of exercise, you might want to contact dive clubs or dive shops in your area to see if they are conducting any programs of regular pool competition. There is a new wave of enthusiasm which has recently begun to build for a variety of different pool games divers can play. In some parts of the country, a game called underwater rugby has gained considerable popularity and several dive shops in upstate New York are now forming teams.

Underwater hockey has gained tremendous popularity in the Midwest and may someday become as great an activity here as it is in Europe. In many parts of the country, water polo has been a long-time favorite among dive clubs. Although this game is not played underwater, the strenuous exercise and competitive spirit involved certainly provide a good workout.

Another pool competition which is extremely popular in Europe is swim fin races. As yet this activity has not reached the U.S. dive scene, but there are strong indications it may soon. The special yard-long fins used in these races have been available here for several years.

Whatever activity you choose, it is important to stick with it throughout the winter and exercise regularly. Don't kid yourself by thinking that jogging, tennis or snow skiing are adequate substitutes for diving. The only good exercise for swimming and diving is one which is actually done in the water—and the best way to stay fit for diving is to dive regularly. 



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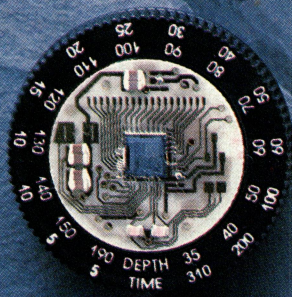
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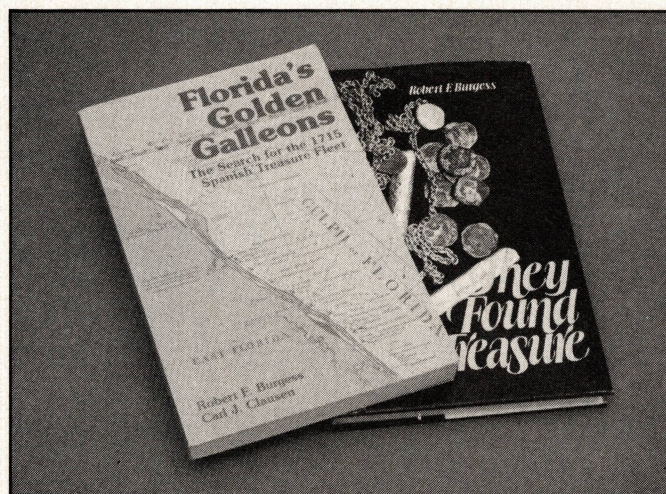
Wreck Facts



BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

Many thanks to Mike Sheen who publishes a newsletter called Weight and Sea, Dynamo, Inc., 8906 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740. One of Mike's news items tells about a fascinating discovery by Dave Walton. Dave was diving the *Schurz*, a World War I cruiser sunk off North Carolina. He noticed that winter storms had washed about three feet of sand out of the stern, increasing the chances of artifact discovery. Sure enough, Dave spied a small brass box in the debris, tucked it in his goodie bag and hurried topside. Inside the box he found spools of thread, embroidered eagles and petty officer chevrons, all in excellent condition. This is exciting when you consider that the *Schurz* has been down since 1918.

Readers are having problems locating some of the books that I am recommending for shipwreck research. The major difficulty is that many of these books are out of print and available only in marine museums or large public libraries. James Cash writes; "I specialize in collecting and selling books on shipwrecks, treasure, etc. I have several copies of; *A Guide to Sunken Ships In American Waters* by Kaplan and Lonsdale, and hundreds of other out-of-print books." Divers may write to: James Cash, 5516 N.E. Third Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334, phone: (305) 771-2375. Jim Jenney writes: "Divers might try Anthell Booksellers, 2177 Isabelle Court, N. Bellemore, NY 11710. This firm buys old books at auctions and one of their specialties is nautical subjects." Joe Dorsey,



Diver's Den, Baltimore, Maryland, says he located an old book through Greetings and Readings in Baltimore, which conducts a computer search through other stores. They do, however, have a \$5 search fee regardless of whether or not they locate the book.

Val Martin, Florida Classics Library, has reprinted some popular treasure diving and Florida books. Many divers are ordering *Florida's Golden Galleons*, about the search for the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet, written by Bob Burgess and Carl Clausen. Other books in demand are: *They Found Treasure* by Bob Burgess; *Shipwrecks in the Vicinity of Jupiter Inlet* by Bessie Dubois; and *The Cave Divers* by Bob Burgess. For a brochure and prices, write: Florida Classics Library, P.O. Drawer 1657, Port Salerno, FL 33492. Remember, diving a wreck is fun but researching it can be almost as

exciting. This is especially true when you encounter some intriguing facts that nobody else has detected.

Jerry Aspinwall, Seawall Diving Center, Miami, Florida, became an experienced researcher after retrieving various artifacts from a wreck off Fowey Rock Light. Jerry wrote and said he thought the items were from the *Joseph B. Thomas* that sank in that vicinity in 1909. He wanted to know how to verify his discovery. I suggested old newspaper clippings and sure enough, Jerry found an article in the Miami Morning News Record, March 25, 1909. The caption read: Schooner On Reef A Total Wreck. Meanwhile, shipwreck expert Jean Haviland used her book, *Merchant Vessels of the United States*, to uncover the following: Schooner *Joseph B. Thomas*, 1564 gross tonnage, 220 x 42 x 24 feet—lost March 21, 1909 off Fowey Rock Light; built and registered in Thomaston, Maine in 1900; 11 men aboard, no lives lost.

Jerry wrote to the Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, and obtained two photos of the schooner. But, when he examined the photos, Jerry concluded that the *Joseph B. Thomas* in not his

wreck. "The *Thomas* carried anchors with large wooden stocks," Jerry wrote, "and my wreck has stockless anchors." He searched old newspapers again but couldn't locate anything earlier than 1905. Miami didn't start a newspaper until that year. A valve he recovered is dated 1891. The ship's bell was manufactured by Delano Brothers, San Francisco, but the company couldn't offer any useful information. Jerry recovered a clock and a brass plate and is trying to trace the wreck through these now. Jerry's quest is intriguing because he is a sleuth doing an inquest on a ghost ship. The varied pieces of his puzzle might come together or his discovery could remain a mystery forever. I'll let you know what happens. Meanwhile, good luck with your own exploration and research. Send comments or questions to: Ellsworth Boyd, Route 2, Box 408, White Hall, MD 21161.

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Scuba Quiz

Category: Drugs and Diving

By Dennis Graver

Modern medicine includes thousands of medications to bring relief from illnesses. Which of these are safe to use while diving? Are there hazards associated with the use of non-prescription drugs? What happens when pressure and medication are combined? Are social drugs hazardous in the diving environment? See if your concepts on this topic agree with the findings of diving physicians and various studies on the subject. The answers are on the next page. **Note: Select all correct answers. Some questions have more than one correct response.**

1. The effect of pressure on drugs taken by divers will cause:

- ☐ A. The effect of the drug to be intensified
- ☐ B. The effect of the drug to be reversed
- ☐ C. Unforeseen effects to occur
- ☐ D. No change in the effect of the drug

2. As long as a decongestant can be tolerated above water with no adverse effects, it can be used without problems when diving.

- ☐ A. True, provided the medication is non-prescription
- ☐ B. True, as long as the recommended dose is not exceeded
- ☐ C. False, because the medication may lose effect underwater
- ☐ D. False, because decongestants predispose to seizures underwater

3. Which of the following statements regarding alcohol is true?

- ☐ A. A person who drinks—before or after diving—is more likely to get decompression sickness than one who abstains
- ☐ B. A person who drinks before diving is more likely to become chilled than a person who abstains
- ☐ C. A person who drinks is less susceptible to narcosis than one who abstains
- ☐ D. A person who drinks before diving is less likely to experience respiratory distress underwater than a person who abstains

4. Which of the following statements regarding diving under the influence of marijuana is false?

- ☐ A. The effects are radically different in cold water versus warm water
- ☐ B. Marijuana tends to increase breath-holding ability
- ☐ C. Marijuana makes divers feel warmer in cold water
- ☐ D. Overwhelming anxiety and fixation on fears are common symptoms

5. Which of the following, in large quantities, can cause dangerous variations in heart rhythm?

- ☐ A. Pain relievers
- ☐ B. Cigarettes
- ☐ C. Coffee
- ☐ D. Decongestants
- ☐ E. Motion sickness medication

6. Generally speaking, antihistamines _____ and decongestants _____. Therefore, use of _____ should be avoided when diving.

- ☐ A. Stimulate, sedate, decongestants
- ☐ B. Sedate, stimulate, decongestants
- ☐ C. Stimulate, sedate, antihistamines
- ☐ D. Sedate, stimulate, antihistamines

7. When drugs are used in combination under pressure, the increased pressure tends to:

- ☐ A. Be completely unpredictable
- ☐ B. Intensify the effect of each drug
- ☐ C. Intensify the effect of one drug
- ☐ D. Nullify the effects of both drugs

8. Select the true statement(s) regarding motion sickness medication.

- ☐ A. Most prescription medications for motion sickness produce undesirable effects for divers
- ☐ B. Over-the-counter motion sickness medications are generally acceptable for divers
- ☐ C. It is better to risk motion sickness than to risk the side effects of medication for the illness

9. Smoking reduces diver performance capabilities by:

- ☐ A. Reducing the oxygen carrying capability of the blood
- ☐ B. Increasing the risk of an air expansion injury
- ☐ C. Reducing breath-holding ability
- ☐ D. A and B, but not C, are correct

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Drugs and Diving

1. C. Unforeseen events to occur.

The effects of drugs under pressure are unpredictable. The effectiveness may be lost completely, or may disappear sooner than expected. Even worse, the effect of the drug may be intensified to the point of being dangerous. For example, it is not uncommon for a diver to lose consciousness U/W from a drug which produces drowsiness above water. Caution, discretion and medical advice are in order.

2. C. False, because the medication may lose its effect underwater. Pressure, perhaps because of increased oxygen partial pressure, causes the effects of some drugs to wear off more quickly than on land. For example, when a decongestant loses its effectiveness underwater, air can be trapped in air spaces and a serious reverse block situation can result during ascent. There is also a phenomenon known as the rebound effect, where congestion is worse when the medication wears off than it was prior to taking the drug.

3. A and B are correct, and perhaps C. Alcohol causes skin vasodilation, which results in more nitrogen being taken up and/or released. This increases susceptibility to decompression sickness. And, bends symptoms might be masked or not distinguished in a diver who has imbibed. The increased circulation to the surface of the body also causes increased heat loss, which

is undesirable for divers. Resistance to narcosis usually parallels a person's tolerance for alcohol, but one should absolutely not be under the influence of alcohol when diving.

4. B and C are false. Breath-hold ability may be reduced by as much as 75 percent under the influence of marijuana. Tolerance to heat loss may be reduced by as much as 90 percent. The effects of marijuana vary greatly with water temperature, but are extremely hazardous. This drug may be socially popular with some divers topside, but should be completely rejected whenever diving is being considered.

5. All of the answers are correct. Normal diving causes some changes in heart rhythm, but dangerous dysrhythmias can be produced when drugs are present. Even seemingly harmless activities, like heavy smoking or the consumption of large quantities of coffee, can contribute to the problem. Decongestants stimulate the heart and predispose to dysrhythmias, as do some pain relievers and any stimulant drug.

6. D. Sedate, stimulate, antihistamines. In the zest to make a dive with a stuffy head, divers resort to a variety of medications to open clogged airways. The sedative effect of some antihistamines can be increased under pressure. Any drug which produces drowsiness should be avoided when diving. Antihistamines can also reduce mucus production, blur vision, and cause rebound congestion. Postponement of diving is probably a better option than use of antihistamines.

7. A. Be completely unpredictable.

The interaction of drugs under pressure is complex and unpredictable. The late Dr. Charlie Brown expressed the problem well by stating that drug interactions can defy imagination. He stated further, "A decongestant that raises blood pressure might instead lower it if compazine is aboard. Most interactions are not understood, and testing them in the water is a form of Russian roulette."

8. A, B, and C are true. Generally speaking, non-prescription medications, such as Marezine and Bonine, are tolerated quite well. Perhaps the best preventive of all is quite natural and harmless. Ginger root capsules—two to three per hour—have proven more effective than any commercial medication for motion sickness.

9. D. A and B, but not C, are correct. Carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke combines with hemoglobin in the blood to reduce oxygenation. Smoking also affects the circulatory system in other undesirable ways. The risk of air expansion injuries in the polluted lungs of smokers is well known. Divers need all the physical resources available, and smoking reduces ability, except for breath-holding (smokers adapt to high levels of carbon dioxide in their system). Divers should not smoke.

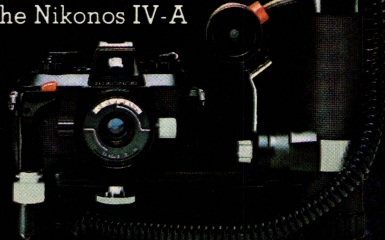
The physiology of diving is complex, as are the physiological effects of medication. Drugs mask symptoms, but do not eliminate the illness producing them. Illness causes changes in body chemistry and the body is not normal immediately afterward. To complicate the situation by exposing oneself to the effects of higher pressures in combination with medications is a definite but avoidable risk. Even worse is the use of mind-altering drugs, which affect judgement and motor skills. The best "trip" of all is the natural high of diving experienced by those in good health.

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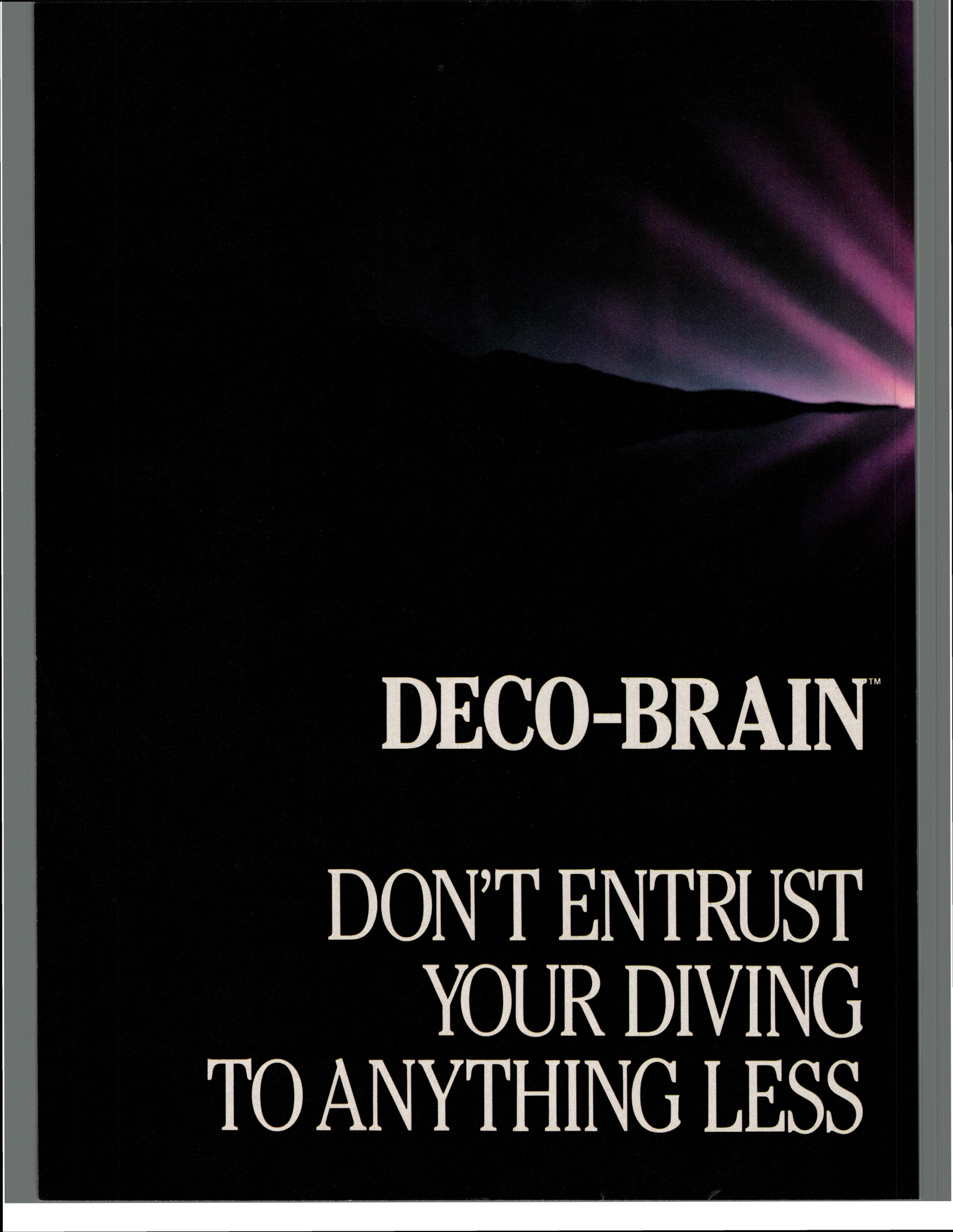
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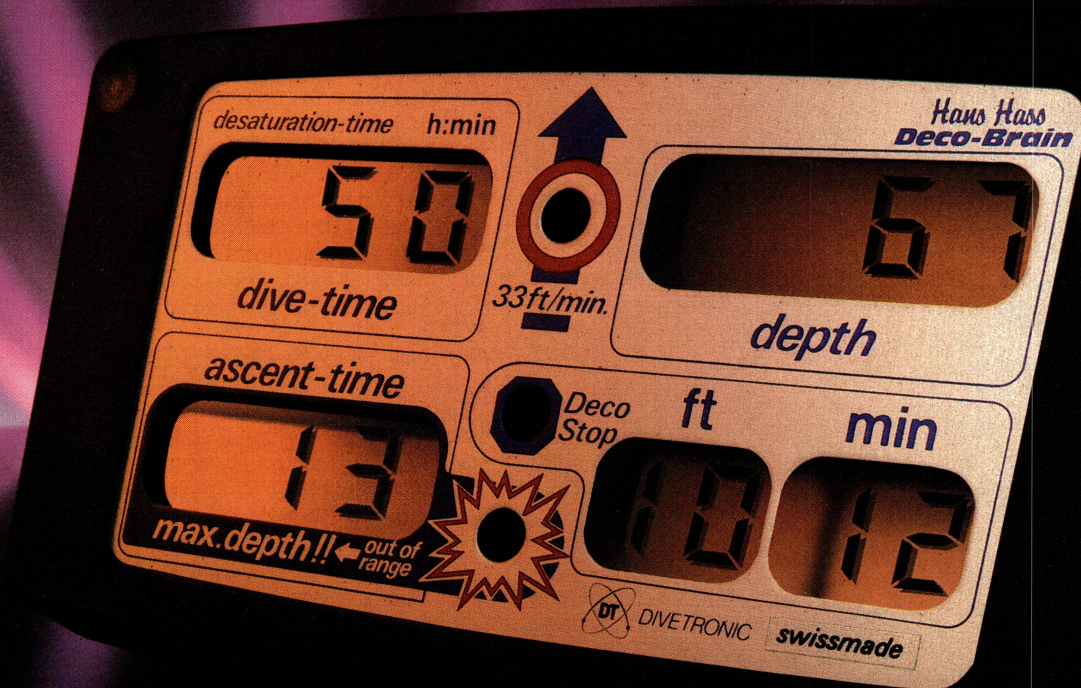
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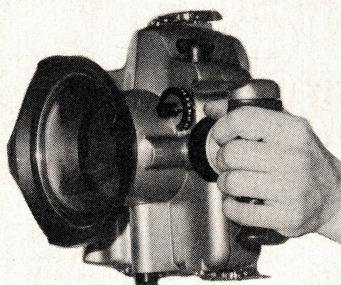
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Diver's Calendar

February 5 Midwest Diving Council Underwater Hockey Meet. Weede Gym, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. (Contact: Jayhawk Divers, Inc., c/o John Burns, Rt. 5, Box 192, Pittsburg, KS 66762; (316) 231-3392)

February 11 Tenth Annual Aid Dive, sponsored by the Underwater Association, Kitchner-Waterloo & District, Elmira, Ontario, Canada, at the Elora Quarry. (Contact: Jeff Buckingham (519) 579-6771)

February 12 Ice breaker '84 sponsored by the United Divers of Central Mass. at Lake Quinsigamond, Rt. 9, Worcester MA. Fund raiser to benefit the Coting School for Handicapped Children. (Contact: Paul Mathieu, 81 Canterbury St. Worcester, MA 01603)

February 25 Eighth Annual Divers Showcase sponsored by the Capitol City Dive Club, at Michigan State University. Films, displays, seminars, banquet and film festival. (Contact: Capitol City Dive Club, P.O. Box 1055, East Lansing, MI 48823)

March 10 Boston Sea Rovers '84, 30th Annual Underwater Clinic. Day program at the Copley Plaza and night program at John Hancock Hall. (Contact: Bunky Hodge, 174 Beech St., Rockland, MA 02370)

March 31 Underwater New York—13th Annual Diving Symposium, sponsored by the New York State Divers Association. Exhibits, artifacts, speakers, photo contest, workshops. (Contact: Peter Odell, 81 Steel St., Auburn, NY 13021, (315) 255-1041; or Terry Hoffman, Standart Woods, B14, Auburn, NY, (315) 252-2320)

April 7 Ken Read Memorial Underwater Photography Contest. Categories for macro and normal/wide-angle slides. Winners announced at Underwater '84, April 28. (Contact: Bob Pantzer, 171 Whitcomb Ave., Littleton, MA 01460)

April 27-29 18th Annual Greater NYC Underwater Exposition—Beneath The Sea (formerly Dive to Adventure), at the White Plains Hotel and Marymount College. Seminars, workshops, special events and exhibits. (Contact: BTS, P.O. Box 644, Rye, NY 10580 or A. Zigahn (914) 961-2088)

April 28 Underwater '84 symposium, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Underwater film review at John Hancock Hall. (Contact: Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117)

April 29 Fourth Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt to Fight Leukemia at La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, California. (Contact: Kim Skaalen, 4423 Brighton Ave., Ocean Beach, CA 92107)



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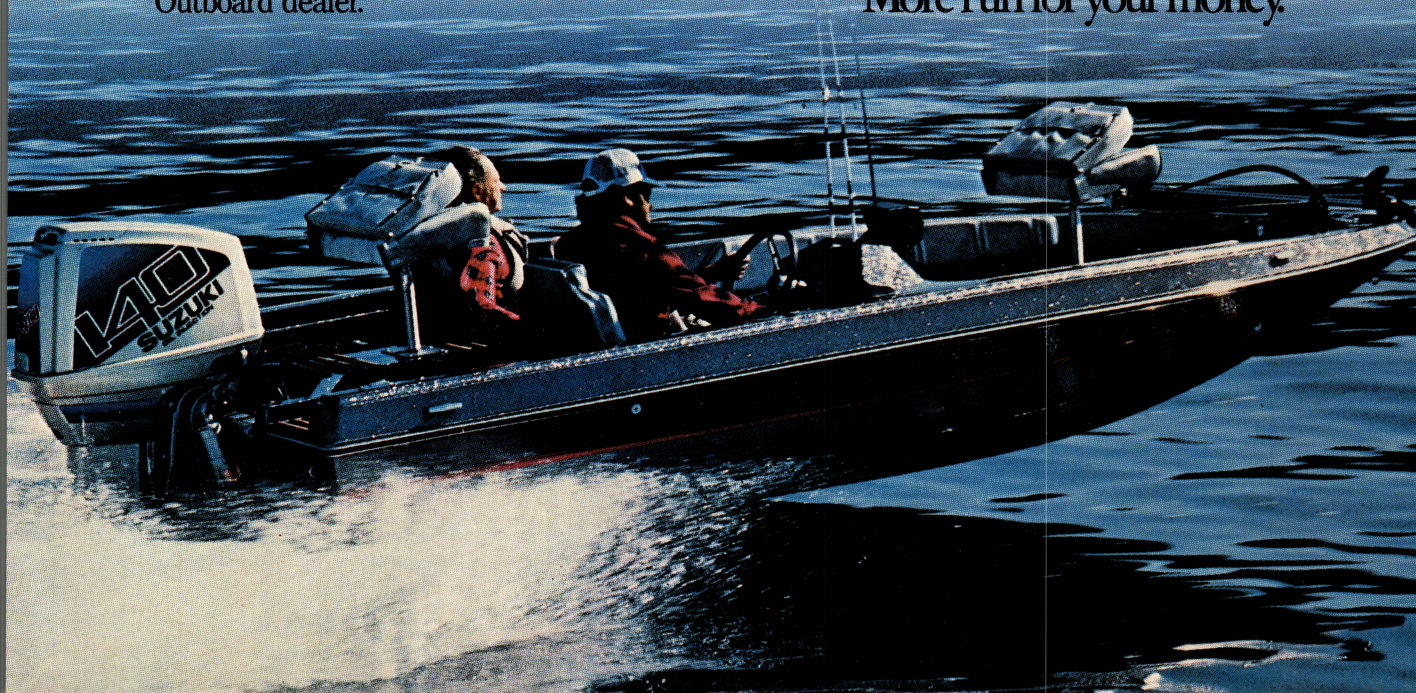
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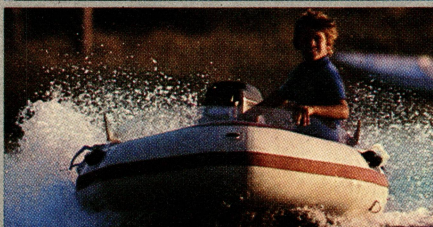


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Film Festivals 'n Symposiums

DIVERS SHOWCASE

The 8th annual Divers Showcase, sponsored by the Capitol City Dive Club, will be held Saturday, February 25, at Michigan State University. This event consists of films, displays, seminars and artifacts during the day; an evening banquet and a film festival. The emphasis of Divers Showcase is to explore and learn about Great Lakes shipwreck diving.

For further information write to: Capitol City Dive Club, P.O. Box 1055, East Lansing, MI 48823. 📧

SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL

The Seventh Annual Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival will be presented by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club on Saturday, February 18. To be held at the Ford Motor Company World Headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, featured presenters include Dennis Hale, John Steele, Tom Farnquist and Undersea Research Associates. There will be films, displays, exhibits, artifacts and artwork relating to Great Lakes maritime history.

For program information contact: Walt Boelstler, 14135 Doris, Livonia, MI 48154; (313) 522-7014. For ticket information contact: Maria Gramer, 1841 N. Denwood, Dearborn, MI 48128; (313) 561-8393. 📧

SEAS CONFERENCE

Two days of workshops and a Saturday night film festival will be featured at the fourth annual SEAS (Southeast Atlantic States) Diving Conference and Underwater Film Festival. It will be held February 24-26 in the Radisson Plaza and Civic Center in downtown Raleigh, NC. All day Saturday and Sunday noted speakers from throughout the nation will conduct workshops on a wide variety of topics including: undersea archaeology, adventure, research, medicine, safety, training and photography. The program will include workshops offering demonstrations of fish printing, seafood preparation, shell identification and collection and others.

The Saturday evening Film Festival will be held in Memorial Auditorium.

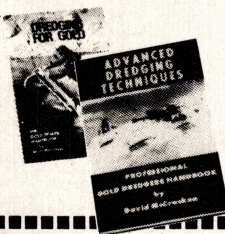
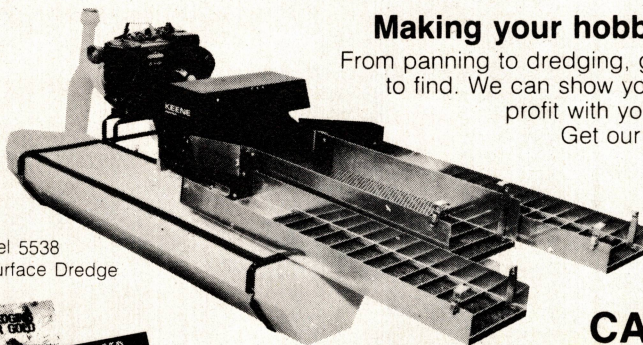
Conference activities at the Radisson also will include socials, door prizes, a film room, demonstrations in the hotel pool and exhibits displaying the latest in scuba equipment, underwater photographic gear, diving resorts, etc. For registration information, write SEAS '84, P.O. Box 31186, Raleigh, NC 27622 or phone (919) 733-2290. 📧

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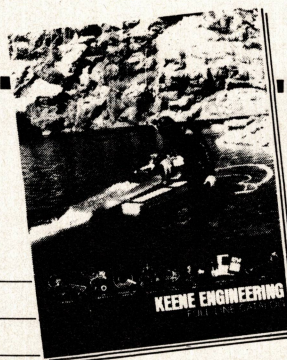


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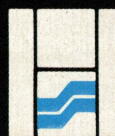
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OUR WORLD-U/W SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Doug Kesling of Dayton, Ohio, an undergraduate student working for his B.S. degree in nursing at Wright State University, is this year's recipient of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship. He spent the entire summer on the West Coast participating in various diving-related projects. Some of the highlights of his summer activities included participation in an underwater cinematography assignment in Baja, Mexico with Stan Waterman; a course in hyperbaric medicine at the Catalina Island Marine Science Center; an advanced undersea photographic course



at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara; and a visit to Scripps Institute of Oceanography and to the UCLA Underwater Physiology Performance Laboratory. Doug also participated in an expedition to Sitka, Alaska with the National Marine Fishery Service which used a two man submersible for biological data collection, and attended the Ocean's '83 Technology conference held in San Francisco.

The Our World-Underwater Scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding individual interested in pursuing a diving related career. The scholarship provides travel and a unique exposure to many diving related programs and to leaders in the field. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25, certified divers with high academic standings. The award is given annually at the Our World-Underwater Convention held in Chicago each May. For information write the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society, 612 N. Michigan, Room 417, Chicago, Illinois 60611. >

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EGG HUNT FIGHTS LEUKEMIA

The Fourth Annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt to Fight Leukemia will be held on Sunday, April 29 at La Jolla Shores, La Jolla, CA. Hundreds of dollars in prizes will be given to lucky egg hunters. The grand prize, for the person who raises the most money through sponsors, will be a dive trip for two to Cozumel.

For information contact Kim Skaalen, 4423 Brighton Ave., Ocean Beach, California 92107.

MIDWEST DIVING ACADEMY

Midwest Diving Academy, a training school in a northwest suburb of Chicago, has recently opened a full service training and retail facility to expand and complement its growing diving activities and training programs. The 1600 square foot PADI training facility includes a classroom for advanced and specialty courses, travel department, charter boat service on Lake Michigan, and a full complement of continuing education courses. John Fleck, a PADI master instructor and instructor merit award winner, will oversee the operation which includes a number of instructors teaching at 12 pool sites in the Chicago area. The training facility is at 1027 N. Roselle Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60195.

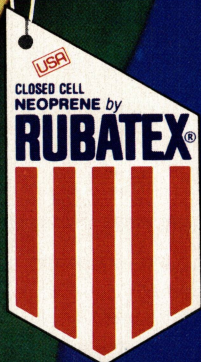
DIVER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Scuba Sport Rites Club, in conjunction with the Underwater Society of America, Northeast Area, is seeking nominations for 1983 Diver of the Year. Divers and dive clubs in the Mid-Atlantic states through New England are invited to submit their nominations. The nominator must be a member of the Underwater Society of America.

All nominations must be received by March 1. The award will be presented at the annual Beneath the Sea Underwater Symposium and Film Festival to be held April 27-29 at the White Plains Hotel, White Plains, New York.

For a copy of the rules and USA membership application write: Harvey Grodjesk, USA-NE Awards, P.O. Box 644, Rye, NY 10580.

Information concerning the Underwater Society of America may be obtained by writing USA, P.O. Box 628, Daly City, California 94017.



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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



The abuse and misuse of diving gear probably causes more problems than any other thing except possibly lack of qualification in the divers themselves. In a recent review of practices by part time commercial divers working out of dive shops that are normally sport diving facilities, Technifacts became aware of a potentially hazardous practice.

DIVE TANK SAFETY

Part time commercial divers use their scuba tanks to inflate float bags during salvage or lifting operations. When all air is exhausted from the tanks they are left on the bottom, frequently without the valves being completely closed. This allows water to enter and some of the tanks become very severely corroded in a matter of a few months. One tank that had been subjected to this kind of abuse for

one year developed a pit in the side of the tank but did not explode; it simply bled the air slowly until empty.

A second tank was also corroded but had been exposed to this abuse for only six to seven months. Some corrosion products were apparent but a dive shop operator, after giving the tank a visual internal inspection (VIP), passed the tank for tumbling and for hydro test.

I purchased these two tanks for non-destructive testing (NDT) and followed this by splitting the tanks lengthwise for sandblasting and internal inspection.

Tank #1 is the cylinder with the pit in the wall. Externally, it showed a great deal of use and abuse. It had a number of gouges, some deep scratches and numerous rust spots and, of course, the obvious pit. Test by a NDT engineer indicated some wall thickness of only 0.135 to

0.150 inch. In some areas on the sides, thickness was down to 0.10 to 0.11 inch. The bottom had a thickness of 0.10 to 0.155 inch. These thicknesses indicate severe internal corrosion and an apparent general metal loss. The visual internal inspection revealed extremely severe corrosion with a very heavy buildup of corrosion products. This tank was split and sandblasted to determine the depth and nature of the severe pitting. The general loss of metal was extensive; the pitting excessive and very deep. Every inspection method indicated this tank was not fit for use after only one year of having had saltwater inside it.

Tank #2 also showed external abuse but to a lesser extent. There was no rust. NDT gauging of the sides indicated a thickness of 0.185 to 0.190 inch. Some pitted areas with a wall thickness of only



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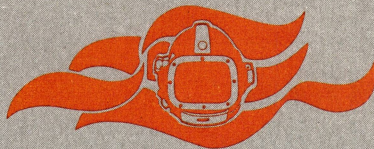
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TECHNIFACTS

0.135 to 0.155 inch were found. A visual internal inspection by a dive shop operator indicated some rust but apparently no severe pitting. The shop recommended tumbling followed by hydro testing. This was done and the tank passed the tests. Then the tank was split lengthwise. It was rusty and had some pits indicating concentrated corrosion. After sandblasting the extensive, deep corrosion pits were obvious. Some of these penetrated through the tank wall nearly one-quarter. This was an extremely marginal tank after about six months' corrosion.

In discussing the possibility of using an ultrasonic thickness gauge as a method of testing scuba tank wall thickness, the NDT inspecting engineer stated, "Ultrasonic inspection is not practical for primary inspection of scuba tanks. It can, however, be used to supplement visual internal inspection techniques; i.e., once a suspect area has been located visually, it can be ultrasonically measured from the outside to determine the remaining wall thickness. Finding isolated pits in a tank by external gauging is difficult, very time consuming and is not a reliable method of inspection."

There are several obvious conclusions that can be reached. First, it is very hazardous to use scuba tanks to inflate lift-bags. When several are being used at one time, the diver cannot be right at each tank when it becomes empty. As a result, water enters the tank and corrosion starts. If tanks are used in this manner, they should be opened, drained and rinsed thoroughly with fresh water, then blown dry with air and the valves reinstalled. Even a few days' corrosion is the beginning of something bad.

Secondly (Technifacts feels this is important), it appears that tumbling may not be adequate to reveal the real depth and extent of corrosion pitting. A visual internal inspection also does not reveal the true condition of a pitted cylinder wall. Usually, the operators first gave the tank a VIP. Then, if this revealed rust, the tank was tumbled. This was followed by a second VIP. But, the material in the tank is not agitated hard enough to dig into the deep corrosion pits to effect removal. Instead, it tends to gloss over them, giving the appearance of a light rust. The deeply pitted material can only be removed by sandblasting. Possibly a sandblasting technique could be developed that could be used inside a scuba tank.

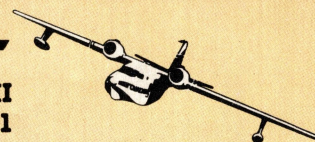
Finally, in addition to the corrosion pits, there is almost always a general loss of metal from the entire interior of the tank. In the case of tank #2 this loss reduced the cylinder wall to as little as 0.135 inch; this is about a 33 percent loss of metal.

(Continued on Page 134)

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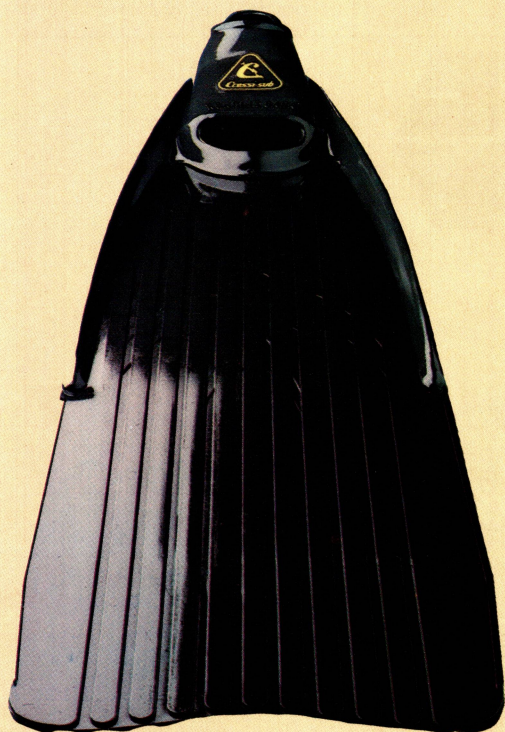
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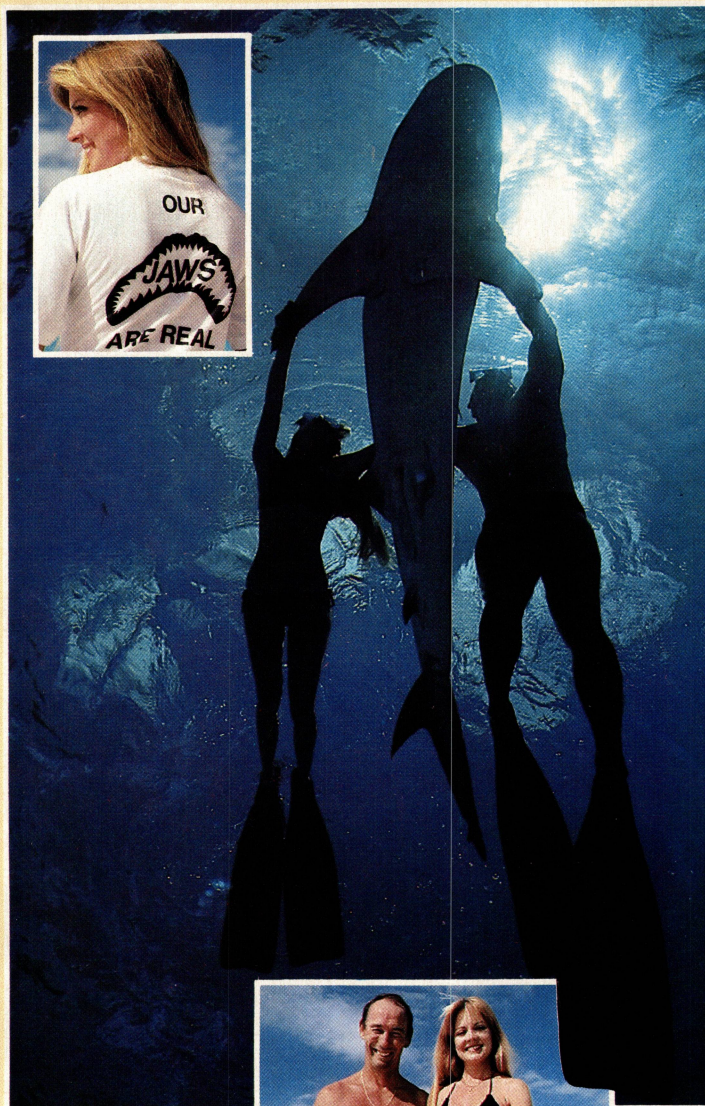
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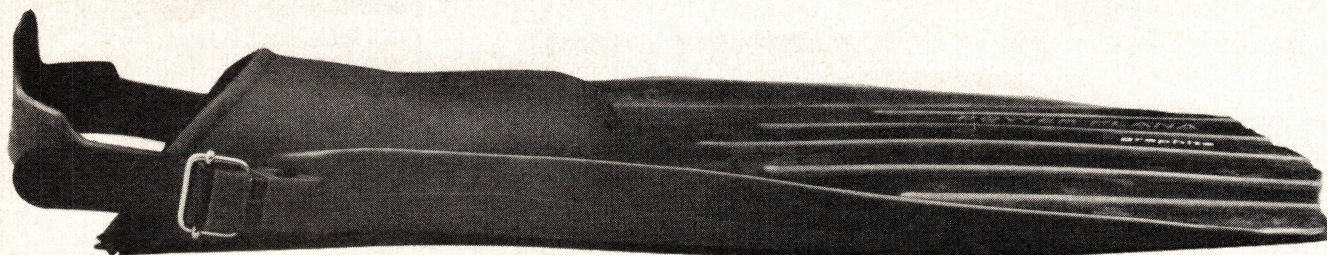
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MARES Power Plana Graphite:

A fin for the big kicker

BY ERIC HANAUER

Two years ago, AMF Mares revolutionized the design of swim fins with the introduction of the Power Plana. It combined a translucent, fiberglass-reinforced plastic blade with a soft, rubber-like foot pocket. It had about half the weight of rubber fins. The Tecralene blade provided more propulsion with less effort by absorbing the energy of the diver's kick, then releasing it at the proper moment, like the fiberglass pole does for vaulters. It was bonded to the boot pocket by a patented process which was guaranteed for life against separation.

Mares engineers have now gone one step further with the introduction of the Power Plana Graphite fin. The benefits of graphite mixed in plastic compounds

have been well known for several years. Fishing rods, tennis rackets and golf clubs feature graphite for added strength and resiliency. In each of these applications, graphite enhances the ability of the material to store and release energy. That's exactly what fins are supposed to do. Therefore, the addition of graphite to a plastic fin blade was simply a case of a good idea whose time had come.

The Graphite is basically a fin for the big kicker. It is stiffer than the Power Plana, which will still continue to be offered by Mares. The new fin requires slightly more effort but provides more propulsion than the original. When using the Graphite, the diver immediately feels more stretch in the ankle, whether kicking

on the stomach or on the back. The fin seems to respond best to a big, slow kick, which allows it to rebound at the end of the stroke. Graphite enhances torsional rigidity, or resistance to twisting. It also prevents over flexing. Thus the force generated by the diver's kick is more keenly focused. The end result is added propulsion with just a little more effort.

Photographers will like the new fins better for themselves than for their models. The blade of the new Plana fin is a dark gray, almost black. It isn't as photogenic as the original. But remember, the Graphite fin is for the big kicker. It can help compensate for the additional drag of camera gear.

Like its predecessor, the Power Plana



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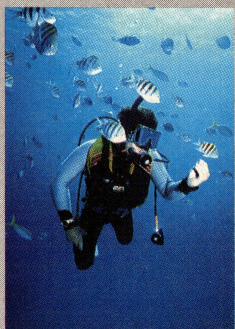
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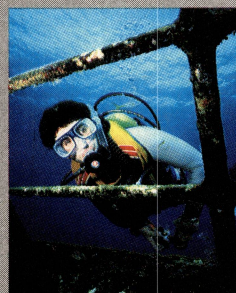
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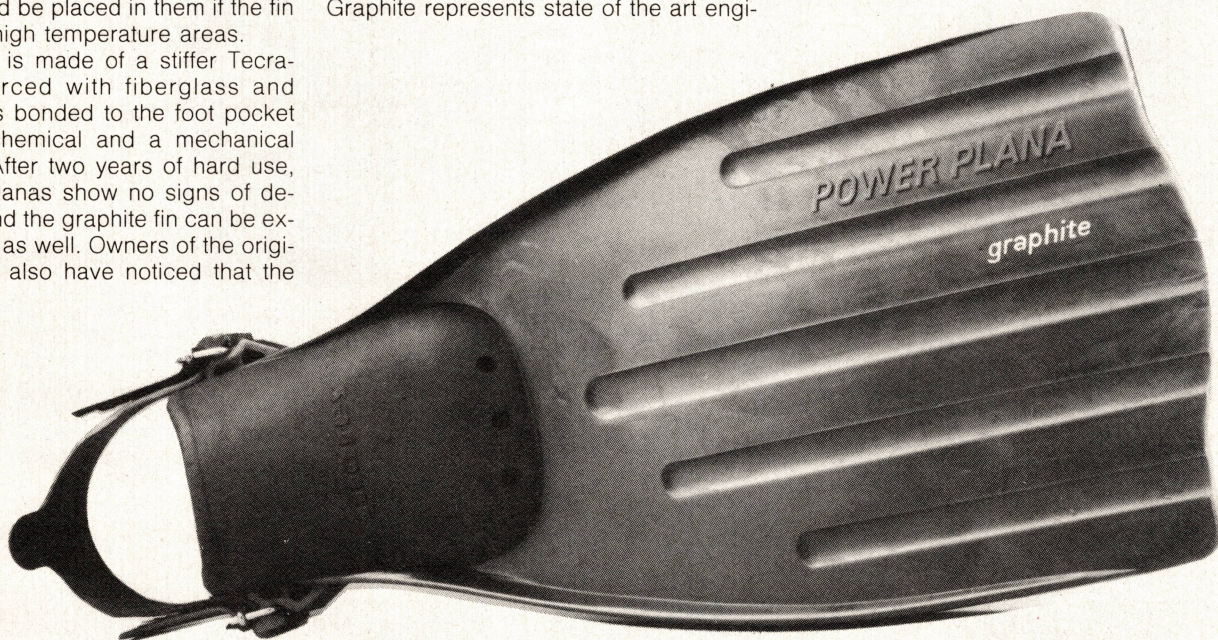
Graphite is made of Tecralene, a plastic compound. The foot pocket, available in four sizes from small to extra large, looks and feels like rubber. However, when exposed to heat extremes, the Tecralene pocket tends to sag or take a small compression set (affecting cosmetics only, not performance). To prevent this, the stiffeners which come packed in the foot pocket should be placed in them if the fin is stored in high temperature areas.

The blade is made of a stiffer Tecralene, reinforced with fiberglass and graphite. It is bonded to the foot pocket by both a chemical and a mechanical procedure. After two years of hard use, my Power Planas show no signs of delaminating and the graphite fin can be expected to do as well. Owners of the original fins may also have noticed that the

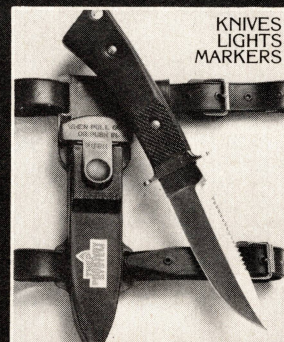
blades tend to scuff after repeated encounters with rocks and corals. Although close range aesthetics are affected, they work as well scuffed as they do when new. In fact, the manufacturer says they develop more flex and resiliency as the material ages.

As the next logical step in the development of diving fins, the Power Plana Graphite represents state of the art engi-

neering and design. For the diver it translates to more kicking power. The Graphite is only five dollars more than the corresponding size Power Plana. They range in price from \$65 for small to \$73 for extra large. The fins, as well as other Mares products, are distributed in the United States by SeaQuest. »



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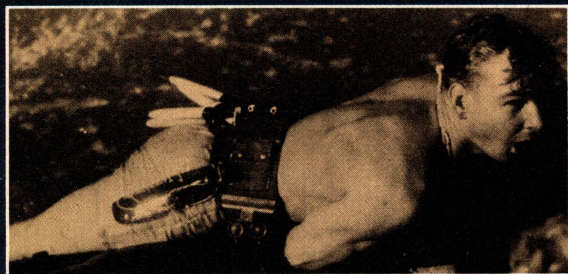
THE UNDERWATER DEMOLITION TEAMS

On November 20, 1942 the Japanese held island of Tarawa was invaded by United States amphibious forces. Tragedy struck when a submerged reef caused the Marine-laden landing craft to stop far off shore, forcing the troops to wade several hundred yards to the beach. To the heavily laden men the water became as lethal as enemy bullets and hundreds drowned.

To provide better pre-assault hydrographic information, and to demolish beach obstacles, Navy Combat Demolition Units were formed. The original personnel were gathered from Navy Construction Battalions and Navy/Marine Scout and Raider Volunteers. All were in excellent physical condition and had previous swimming experience. Training began at Fort Pierce, Florida in the summer of 1943.

In the winter of 1944 the graduates were organized into 6-man Navy Combat Demolition Units and most were sent to England to join the large invasion force being gathered there.

After months of additional training the men were embarked with the massive invasion force which set off for the beaches of Normandy. The Navy CDU teams were assigned to clear the way to Utah and Omaha beaches. Working under intense enemy fire they painstakingly set their charges. Four gateways to France were unveiled in a series of triumphant explosions. But the Navy CDU teams paid a price—losses at Utah were 30% and at Omaha about 60-70%. The survivors were shipped to the Pacific where they were re-structured and renamed Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT).



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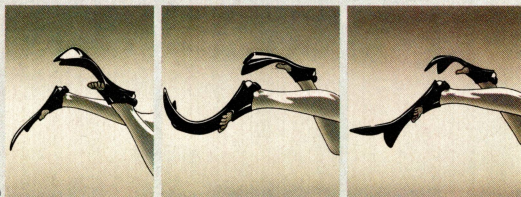
causes your toes and arches to cramp. The Force Fin doesn't cause cramping because the fin is flexible and the toes are free of the pocket, so they can bend naturally, without restriction.

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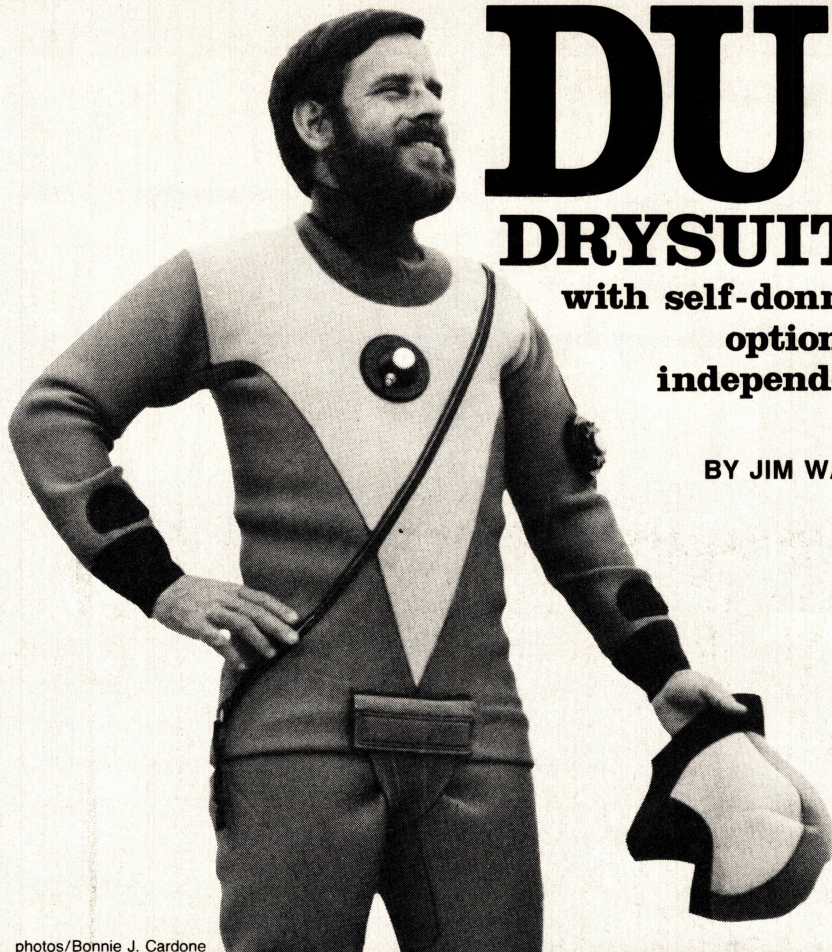


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photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

DUI DRYSUITS

with self-donning
option for
independence

BY JIM WALKER

When I first took the DUI drysuit out of the box and held it up to check the size, I was sure there had been a mistake. It looked to be about the right width, but with the boots flat on the floor the suit stretched up so high the neck was above the top of my head. It looked like a good suit for a professional basketball player/diver. I was all set to order a smaller one when I realized the suit was my size; the extra length was a result of the self-donning option built into it.

The self-donning option begins with the unusual placement of the sturdy bronze-toothed entry zipper across the chest, slanting down from left shoulder to right hip. The zipper can be opened and closed by the diver wearing the suit.

Reaching the zipper is only half the trick to being self-sufficient in your drysuit. You also have to be able to get your arms and neck through the seals without getting stuck halfway. Also, getting the shoulders of the suit off or on can be really difficult. This is where the extra suit length (in the torso) comes in handy. This allows the diver to raise the neck and shoulders of the suit high enough to slip over the head without trouble, even while the arms are in the sleeves. This also reduces strain on the zipper.

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DUI DRYSUIT

tion. When held in place by a Velcro® closing beavertail (see photo), this looks like a jacket.

The exact procedures for donning and doffing are included with each drysuit and are relatively easy to follow. Facilitating the whole maneuver are sturdy nylon webbing Pull-Offs (thumb loops) secured to the outside of the suit's wrists. Additionally, inside each wrist seal are slippery nylon inner cuffs, called Slip-Throughs. These allow the hands to slide through the wrist seals with ease, saving wear and tear on the seals.

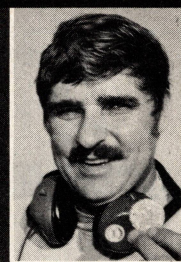
To don the drysuit, the diver first steps into the legs one at a time and pulls the



crotch up into position. Next, the arms are slipped into the sleeves. Then, the diver pulls the shoulders of the suit up and slips the head through the neck seal. The excess material is pulled down and secured with the beavertail, the zipper is closed and the seals adjusted.

Doffing the drysuit is just the reverse of this method except that once the neck is pulled off the head, getting the suit off the shoulders and arms is a bit more involved. The left hand must first be pulled out of its wrist seal (holding the Pull-Off with the right hand). Next the diver reaches around behind his/her back and pulls on the left Pull-Off again with the right hand to slip the left shoulder and arm out of the suit. Then, in front again, the diver pulls on the right Pull-Off with

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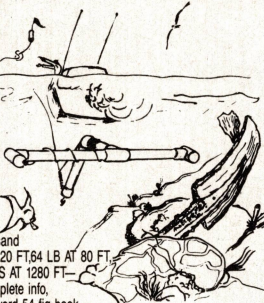
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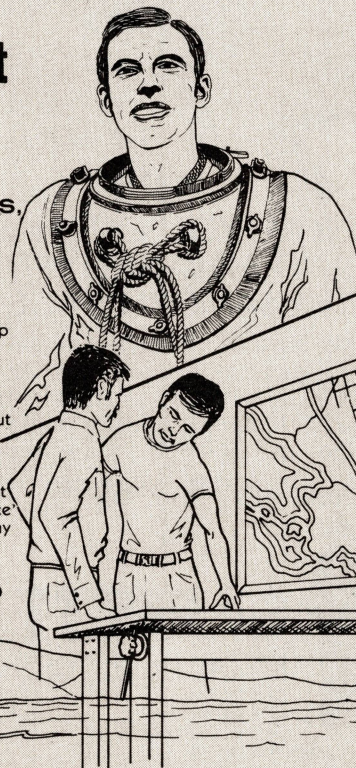
says graduate Gary Emerson
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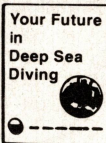
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the left hand to free the right arm. The di-
ver then pulls the torso of the suit down
and off the legs in the usual manner.

The SKIN DIVER test suit was the Argo-
naut model, made of foam neoprene. In
the future, however, the self-donning op-
tion will be available on the CF 200 suit
(made of solid 1/16 inch neoprene) and on
the Voyager model (made of a nylon/bu-
tyl laminate). These come standard with-
out inflation/deflation valves (base prices
\$812 and \$550 respectively) but the
valves would be a good investment. Our
Argonaut model had them and they made
adjusting buoyancy easy.

While the drysuits can be worn by
themselves, in colder waters the diver



may wish to wear DUI Diver Underwear.
This is a well made, zip-front jumpsuit of
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batting). This material is lightweight and
is described as being virtually non-com-
pressible. It is also described as giving
the thermal protection of two sets of woo-
ly bears and as retaining 80 percent of
this insulation when flooded. An added
advantage of wearing the underwear is
that the slick nylon surface allows you to
slip easily into your drysuit. In addition,
the arms and legs have elastic loops at
the openings which the diver uses to help
pull the underwear through the drysuit.
The underwear (\$120) comes with
slippers of the same material.

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Sweet Dreams
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LIONEL RICHIE
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1 0 7 6 7
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ALPHA

6 2 8 7 9
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THE WILD HEART

4 4 3 3 2
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RONNIE MILSAP
KEYED UP

5 2 4 8 4
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5 0 1 6 3
A&M

DURAN DURAN
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6 3 4 5 2
CAPITOL

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ELIMINATOR

3 4 1 2 9
WARNER BROS.

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DIRTY LOOKS

6 3 6 2 8
CAPITOL

Kenny Rogers
Eyes That See In
The Dark

53363

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THE CLOSER YOU GET

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BARRY MANILOW
GREATEST HITS,
VOL. 2

5 3 4 2 4
ARISTA

ROBERT PLANT
The Principle
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6 2 2 2 8
ES PARANZA

OAK RIDGE BOYS
AMERICAN MADE

6 3 5 5 5
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COMMODORES 13

3 2 4 0 4
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ATLANTIC

DIANA ROSS
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PHYSICAL
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1 2 3 1 8
SWAN SONG

*NEIL DIAMOND
HOT AUGUST
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4 3 4 2 0
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GREATEST HITS

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3

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4

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5

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6

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10

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Simple, effective, lightweight pneumatic

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRED FISCHER

Simple and effective are the best words to describe the 35 inch Cressi-sub Mach 0.9 speargun. It is a lightweight pneumatic designed for taking the pan sized fish found around a reef. A slightly larger Mach 1.1 and a smaller Mach 0.7 are also available. Features include a mid-barrel grip, twin barb rock point tip, single power setting, rubber line clip and vinyl carrying case.

The Mach 0.9 is constructed with the quality and precision required for a pneu-

matic. Black anodized aluminum is used in the barrel and muzzle. Black nylon forms the handle casing. The eight millimeter steel shaft is cadmium plated for corrosion protection.

When you first grasp the Mach 0.9, the unique feel of a mid-barrel grip is immediately apparent. It provides a nice sense of balance and a little more control when aiming the gun. The main volume of the air chamber is in the two inch diameter barrel behind the handle, which rests on

top of your forearm when shooting.

The handle is large enough for a comfortable grip and symmetrical for either the right or left hand. The safety is on the left side of the grip behind the trigger. It has a unique lever action: up for fire, down for safe. This type of movement is very quiet but inconvenient for left handers. On top of the grip is a sighting rib which aligns with a point on the muzzle.

The gas chamber behind the piston in this pneumatic gun is pressurized at the factory to 18 atmospheres and should maintain that pressure for at least a year. The internal pressure can be dropped as low as 15 atmospheres for easier loading or raised to 20 atmospheres for more power. Some spearfishermen who dive deep will raise the pressure in the chamber to offset the increased hydrostatic pressure. Only one power setting is provided owing to the small size of the gun. The loading effort required for the Mach 0.9 is similar to that required for a low power loading of the larger pneumatic guns. A hand pump is provided with the gun to force air into the chamber through a port in the rear. For an accurate measurement of the internal pressure, check with a Cressi-sub dealer.

The range of the 31 inch shaft is limited by the 10 foot shock cord. A mechanical line release is not included in the Mach 0.9 design. The spearfisherman must

(Continued on Page 42)



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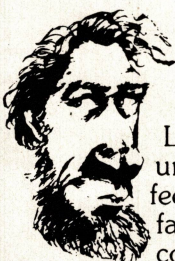
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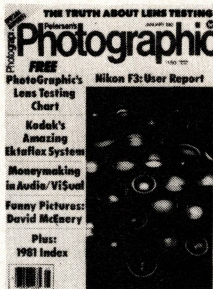
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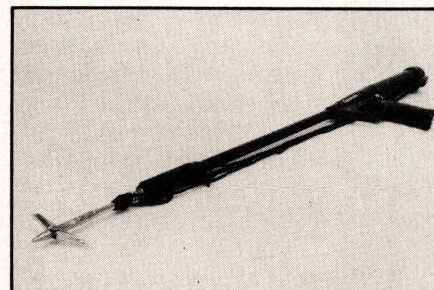


CRESSI-SUB SPEARGUN

(Continued from Page 38)

either allow the one-eighth inch braided nylon line to trail loose in the water or fasten the center under a rubber clip at the back of the barrel. Such a system is convenient in open areas, but difficult to handle in kelp or around large coral heads.

For loading, you can rest the mid-barrel handle across the thigh while forcing the shaft into the barrel with the hand loader. The only way to unload the gun is to fire it into the open water. While unloaded, the shaft can be carried by wrap-



ping the shock cord around it and the barrel of the gun.

Although owners of pneumatic guns do not have to bother with maintaining rubber bands and wishbones, care must be taken to keep the gun clean with a fresh-water rinse and to avoid using even slightly bent shafts. Firing the gun out of water will seriously damage the muzzle assembly. A one year warranty against defects in workmanship is provided by Cressi-sub through its dealers. All repair and maintenance problems should be taken to local Cressi-sub dealers rather than the importer in Florida.

In conclusion, the Cressi-sub Mach 0.9 is a simple, well built, lightweight pneumatic speargun. Visit your Cressi-sub dealer and compare it to the 15 other spearguns in the line. Suggested retail price for the Mach 0.9 is \$166. For more information contact Cressi-sub, 677 S.W. First Street, Miami, FL 33130.

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photo by Mike Massey

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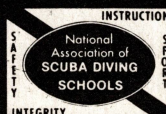
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FOR DIVERS

BY FRED BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

This month we introduce Hugh D. Greer, III, M.D. a neurologist in Santa Barbara, CA. Doctor Greer was trained as a Navy Diving Medical Officer. He consults extensively in diving medicine and is an avid sport diver. His article points out problems involved with diving and epilepsy.

Physicians are asked from time to time whether patients who have epilepsy should dive. It is my view that they should not and this article is presented to explain that view.

Epilepsy is the tendency to have epileptic seizures. Lest this seem simplistic, consider that about five percent of the world's population will experience one seizure during their lifetime. Only one-half of one percent, or 1 out of 200, will have two or more. These are the people who are said to have epilepsy.

Seizures come in all sizes and shapes. The clinical seizure is the outward expression of an electrical event which occurs within the brain and which generates abnormal signals, therefore abnormal behavior, ranging from twitching to a generalized convulsion, from a momentary lapse of awareness to grossly disordered social behavior. Seizures are involuntary, occur randomly and often without warning. Seizures often cause loss of consciousness and virtually always interfere with normal behavior. The majority of seizures begin in childhood and some seizure disorders are genetically determined. In most cases, underlying disease, such as tumor, cyst, infection, is not demonstrable.

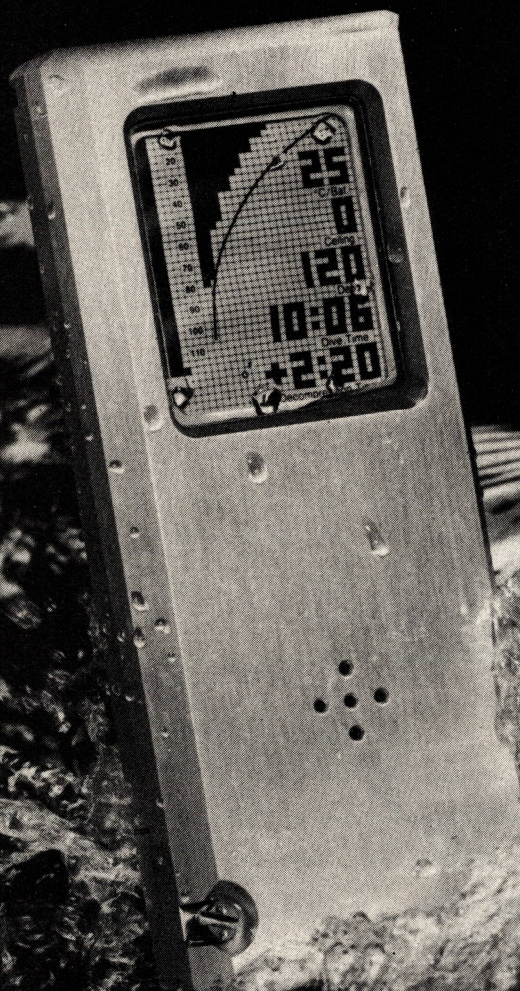
The most commonly recognized seizure is a generalized grand mal convulsion. This occurs when the electrical discharge involves the entire brain or a large part of it. It characteristically begins with a strangling sort of cry which, in itself,

(Continued on Page 58)

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A principal complaint often voiced by divers in search of the perfect trailerable boat is most do not have enough room for all the gear required by a half dozen or more buddies. When a boat can be found to accommodate everything needed, the size and weight are frequently so great it becomes impractical to tow. Jack Dick, owner of Sportsco Custom Boats in Springdale, Arkansas, realized the need for a custom dive boat after he tried for years to find one having the right qualities, while still being trailerable to the mountain lakes found on the border between Arkansas and Missouri. As the owner of a small chain of dive/sporting goods retail stores, Dick soon formed a partnership with an established boat manufacturer and set about to design and build a reasonably sized, trailerable dive boat from the keel up. The result is the incredibly rugged Sea Scip series. The boat is available in three lengths—28, 26 and 24 feet.

Dick invited SKIN DIVER to come to Arkansas and test the boat for a week. The model provided was the largest of the group, the Sea Scip 128. Constructed completely of hand laid fiberglass, the boat has an amazing 200 square feet of usable deck space. A modified-V design, it is primarily used with outboard motors,

but can be ordered with an inboard/outboard configuration.

As a result of the combination of its eight foot beam and long hull design, the boat can carry up to 10,000 pounds and still plane with only a 90 hp outboard. Maximum recommended power is 200 hp. With 200 hp, six divers and full gear, the boat can reach speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. In a recent test to confirm the boat's applications in the commercial dive industry as well as for private boaters, Dick enlisted 20 fully equipped divers to come on board and check out the ride. On a calm lake the 128 still was able to maintain a speed of over 40 miles per hour fully loaded!

When ordered, each Sea Scip is custom constructed to the exact specifications of the owner. There is a healthy list of standard features built into the boat and an even more impressive list of options when one considers that Sportsco will custom construct anything that is possible to add to the hull. In the list of standard features, the most prominent item is 1200 pounds of positive flotation which is built into an airtight subfloor. As a result, the boat is as unsinkable as a hull can be made. Other standards include a 50 gallon fuel tank, elevated or floor level console, running lights, anodized aluminum

side rails, two fiberglass pedestals with folding padded seats, rubrail and more.

In the options department are standard dive features as well as some that can individualize the boat for particular uses. In addition to twin dive platforms, the boat can be equipped with a windshield, optional capacity fuel tank, Bimini top, enclosed console, side seating, center seating, center tank rack and storage bin, and marine head. Some of the more unusual things that can be built-in include underwater observation ports in the deck and drop sidesteps.

To prove the boat's trailerability, Dick took us on a four day trip to dive each of the four major lakes that crisscross between Arkansas and Missouri. The roads between Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals and Norfork Lakes are some of the most mountainous in the region and would make an excellent proving ground for automobiles! The 1890 pound hull seemed to offer little problem as we negotiated the winding, bumpy roads from lake to lake. Loading and unloading were accomplished at each lake with ease.

On the water, the boat was extremely maneuverable at both high and low speeds. To dive, we slipped into some very tight spots between old dead trees and tied up alongside the sheer cliff drop-offs that border each of these lakes. At full speed, the boat hugged the water and planed nicely. Since these were inland lakes, and we wanted a feel for how the Sea Scip would handle in moderate ocean waves, we deliberately sliced into the wake of other boats. The chop and spray were hardly noticeable due to the chine configuration on the boat's underside. Also incorporated into the 128 is a 25 inch high transom which allows backing in choppy water. Any water that might get into the deck would be quickly eliminated through the self-bailing hull.

Dick has tested the Sea Scip in rough Gulf of Mexico seas with no difficulties.



DIVE BOATS

SPORTSCO'S SEA SCIP 128

**A custom built, trailerable dive boat
with lots of deck space**

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE LUCAS



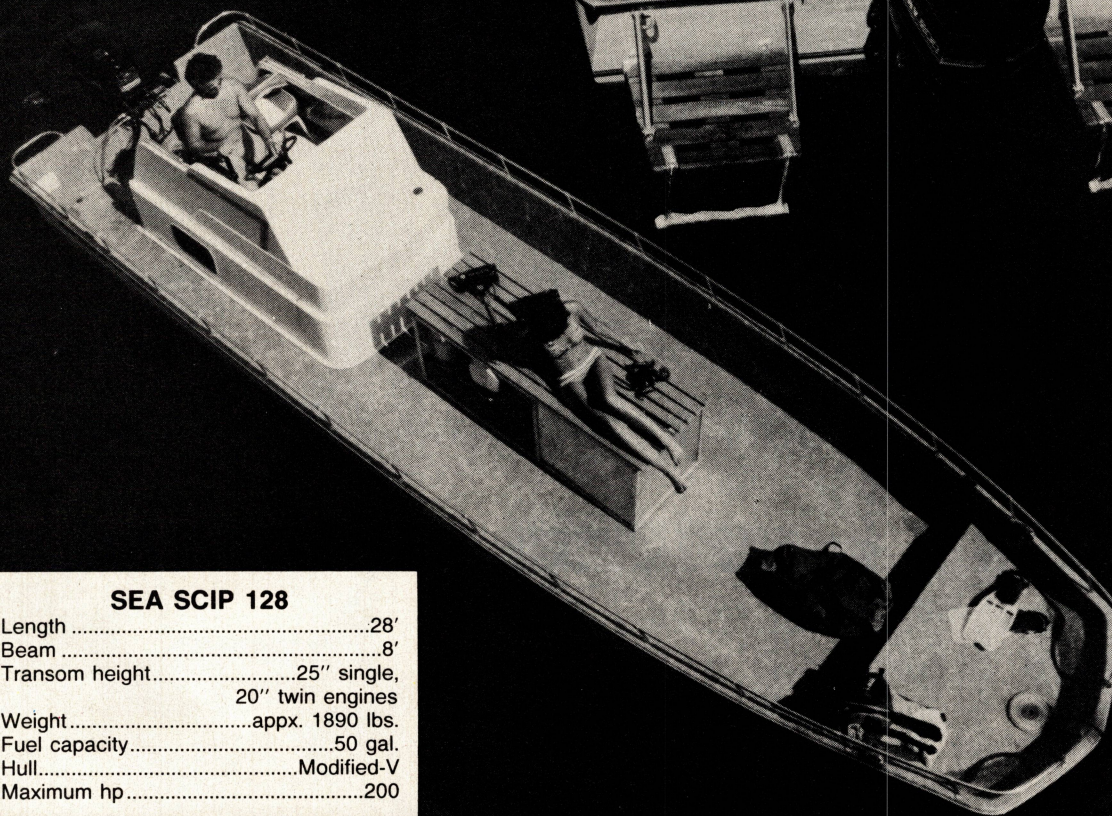
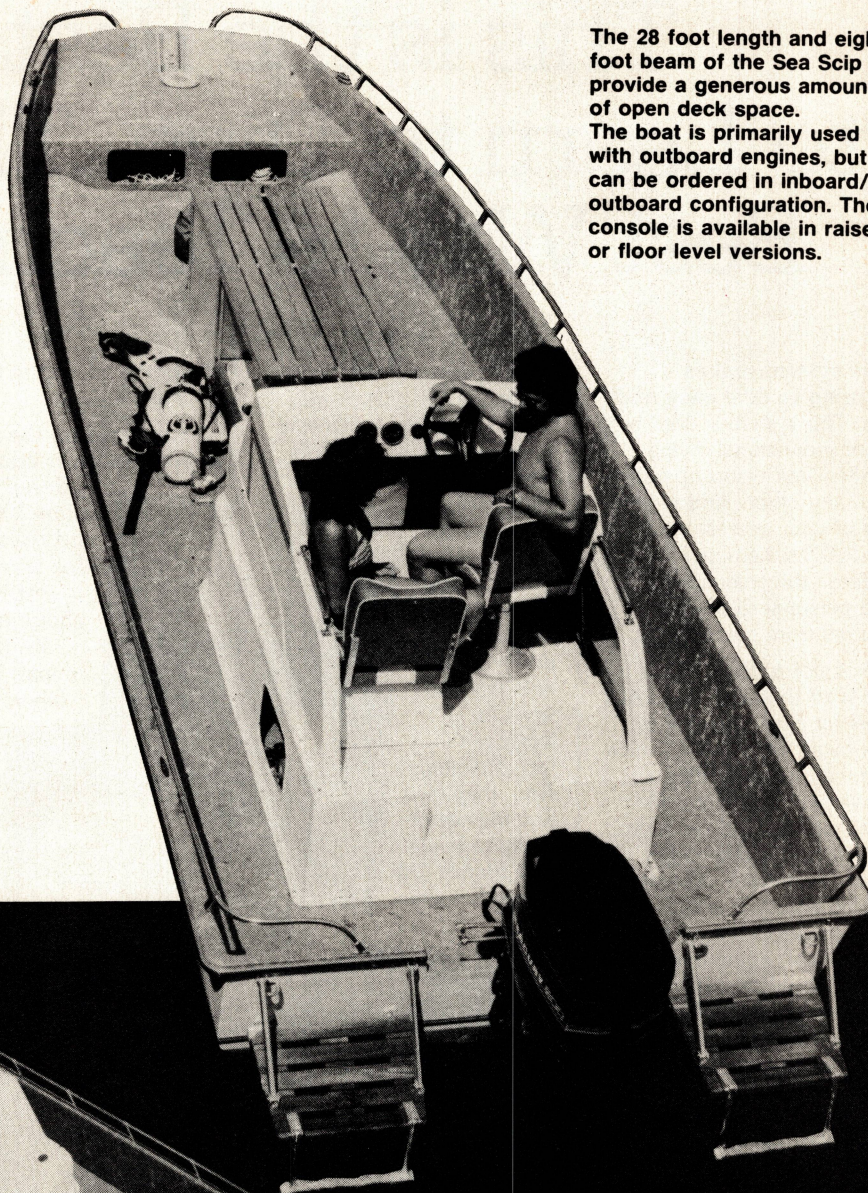
He does not recommend it in waves over six feet. A deep-V hull is being designed for those who want the ability to run in rough water.

The Sea Scip does have a noticeable character as a result of its design. Its seven layers of mat and roving are purposely allowed to flex while the boat is underway. To boaters used to more rigid hull designs, the sight of gunwales moving while at high speeds may be unusual. The principle has been in use for over 30 years and it is well accepted that fiberglass has greater strength when allowed to flex.

As a custom ordered boat, sold factory direct, Sportsco is able to offer the Sea Scip 128 at a remarkable price. The cost, less engine, options and freight, is \$8,499. A custom drive-on tandem trailer with brakes is \$2,349. Backed by 36 years of experience in custom boat design and construction, the 128 comes with a one year warranty. A complete brochure and price list of standard and optional features is available from: Sportsco Custom Boat Division, 2806 W. Sunset, Springdale, Arkansas 72764; (501) 751-0636. With applications as both a privately owned or commercial dive boat, the Sea Scip series deserves a good look. >

The 28 foot length and eight foot beam of the Sea Scip provide a generous amount of open deck space.

The boat is primarily used with outboard engines, but can be ordered in inboard/outboard configuration. The console is available in raised or floor level versions.



SEA SCIP 128

Length	28'
Beam	8'
Transom height.....	25" single,
	20" twin engines
Weight.....	appx. 1890 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	50 gal.
Hull.....	Modified-V
Maximum hp.....	200

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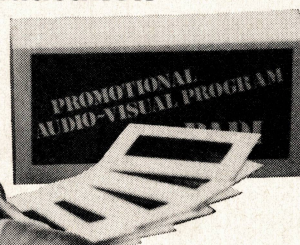
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**DIVING EQUIPMENT
MANUFACTURERS**

1984



SKIN DIVER INDEX OF EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

BY GERI MURPHY

This directory is a compilation of 147 equipment manufacturers, importers and distributors who have advertised in SKIN DIVER from January 1983 to January 1984. It is one of the most complete, up-to-date and accurate directories available at this time.

The index consists of two basic parts: the alphabetical directory of all companies and the grouping of companies by product categories. The alphabetical directory is listed in the first part of this index and contains the company names, addresses and zip codes. Company groupings by product category are listed in alphabetical order of 30 different categories and include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Accessories | 11) Flags & Floats | 21) Optical & Prescription Masks |
| 2) Boats & Outboards | 12) Gear Bags | 22) Regulators |
| 3) Books/Diving & Marine Life | 13) Hookah Dive Gear | 23) Spearguns/Polespears |
| 4) Buoyancy Compensators | 14) Instruments/Gauges/Consoles | 24) Tanks/Valves/Backpacks |
| 5) Cameras/Housings/Strobes | 15) Jewelry/Gifts/Posters/Calendars | 25) Training Aids/Textbooks |
| 6) Cameras/Photo Accessories | 16) Knives | 26) Underwater Vehicles/DPVs |
| 7) Clothing/Jackets/Swimsuits | 17) Liftbags/Salvage Gear | 27) Video Housings |
| 8) Commercial Gear | 18) Lights | 28) Watches/Underwater Timers |
| 9) Compressors & Supplies | 19) Masks/Fins/Snorkels | 29) Weightbelts/Weights |
| 10) Dive Computers | 20) Metal Detectors/Dredging Equipment | 30) Wetsuits/Drysuits/Accessories |

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Dunstar International
Key West Aloe
Midwest Life Support Systems
Norlantic Enterprises
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Scuba Sextant, Inc.
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Tanchor Sports
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Underwater Design Technology
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American Radhial
Avon West
Dusky Marine
Metzeler/Leisure Products
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Helix
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MARK VII

SDM SPECIAL SERIES ON REGULATORS



SCUBAPRO Mark VII Adjustable Regulator

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE COZENS

At times, when technology is increasing rapidly and manufacturers are introducing new products with modern designs and materials, it is worthwhile to review existing products on the market, especially those that have withstood the test of time, to see how well they compare with some of the newer arrivals. A case in point is featured this month. It is the Mark VII, by one of the most respected names in diving, Scubapro.

Actually, Mark VII designates only the first stage of the complete regulator system (Catalog No. 12-107-000), which also includes the adjustable second stage. The single most unique feature of this regulator system, however, is the Mark VII audio-reserve first stage, first introduced by Scubapro in 1972. It appears massive. The body measures about one and three-quarter inches thick, three and one-quarter inches long, and two and three-quarter inches wide. This body and its integral yoke are made from a solid piece of forged brass, which accounts for most of the first stage's hefty 66.7 ounce weight. The reason for this bulk is that the body houses three related mechanisms: the balanced, flow-through piston; the audio oscillator; and the audio control valve.

The stage's pressure reduction, from tank pressure to intermediate pressure (ranging from 128 to 140 psi above ambient), is accomplished with the flow-through piston. This stainless steel piston resembles a T when viewed from the side: The top is essentially a flat disk, with an O-ring around its circumference; the stem is a hollow tube protruding from one side of the disk. When positioned within the first stage, the piston helps create three separate internal chambers or cavities. The bottom end of the piston's stem resides within the high pressure cavity where the stem itself seals against the Teflon® high pressure valve seat. The upper part of the stem and the underside of the piston top form the ambient pressure cavity, which is open to the outside in order to transmit ambient pressure to the piston. Within the ambient pressure cavity is the stainless steel main spring, which also pushes on the piston, and is used to control the amount by which the intermediate pressure exceeds ambient. The top of the piston separates the ambient pressure cavity from the intermediate or low pressure cavity. In operation, intermediate pressure air presses against the top of the piston, holding the stem closed

against the high pressure (HP) valve seat, while the opposing ambient and spring pressures try to push in the opposite direction, in an effort to open the valve. During inhalation or purging, the low pressure drops, the ambient and spring pressures push the piston away from the HP seat, allowing air to flow through the center of the piston stem and into the intermediate pressure cavity. When the inhalation or purging is stopped, the intermediate pressure increases to a level where it again applies sufficient force to push the piston back against the HP seat, shutting off the air flow. Two features of this design are worth noting. The first stage is virtually balanced, meaning that the supply pressure exerts little or no force on the piston itself, so changes in this supply when going from high to low tank pressures have little, if any effect on the performance characteristics of the unit. Also, the air passage in the stem of the piston is quite large in order to provide sufficient air flow during periods of high demand (i.e., deeper depths and/or heavier breathing) that might be encountered.

As previously mentioned, what makes the Mark VII first stage unique is the au-

dio-reserve feature, which signals when the supply pressure is getting low. The audio-reserve consists of two mechanisms: the audio control valve and the audio oscillator. The former is basically a spring loaded pin, the position of which is controlled by the supply air pressure.

The audio oscillator is a solid brass cylinder, with a "metering" hole drilled through its axis and an O-ring seal around its circumference. It slides within its own chamber and is held in position by the audio control pin at one end and an oscillator spring and air pressure acting on the other end. With supply pressures greater than about 350 psi the control pin holds the oscillator away from its sonic position, allowing intermediate pressure air to flow unrestricted by the face of the oscillator and out the audio (low pressure) port. At about 350 psi changes in the pressures at the front and rear of the oscillator cause it to vibrate in and out, producing a sonic alarm that is hard to ignore. The sound this alarm makes resembles the honking of a fog horn, and is said to be easily heard underwater up to 60 feet away: Your buddy is also made aware of your low air condition. This sonic alarm also generates pressure pulses in the second stage, which result in a distinct tactile signal in the diver's mouth—so divers are doubly reminded that their air supply is getting low. There are no levers to worry about,

as with reserve valves on tanks, the Mark VII audio-reserve works automatically and can't be reset or turned off by mistake. However safe the audio-reserve is, it is not intended to replace the submersible pressure gauge.

The Mark VII first stage has one high pressure port and two low pressure ports: an audio port, for connecting the primary second stage; and a second, non-audio port, for the octopus or BC inflator. Of course, all external surfaces of the housing are chrome plated. And, as with all Scubapro regulators, a tube of special silicone compound to fill the ambient pressure chamber (for environmental protection) is packed with each unit. A part of the S.P.E.C. program, this compound helps provide thermal protection against freeze-up, and keeps contaminants away from the piston area.

The second stage is a conventional, downstream demand valve design with venturi assist, introduced by Scubapro in 1965. It has undergone numerous improvements in the intervening years. It is designed so the diver can tune the breathing resistance while diving. To provide this feature, Scubapro housed the demand valve in a tubular barrel, which runs across the diameter of the second stage. A knurled knob is on the case opposite the hose connection and allows the diver to adjust the valve spring compression and, thus, the inhalation resist-

ance from outside the stage. The advantage of such a diver controlled adjustment should be obvious: Freeflowing can be greatly reduced when the second stage is not in use, yet the stage can be quickly adjusted to provide maximum performance when called to service.

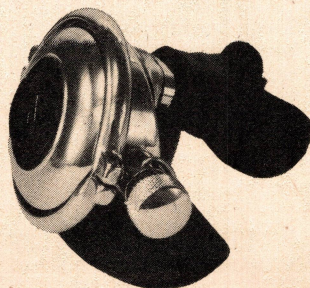
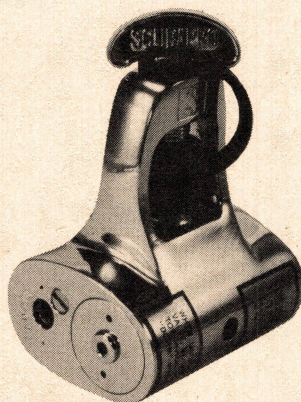
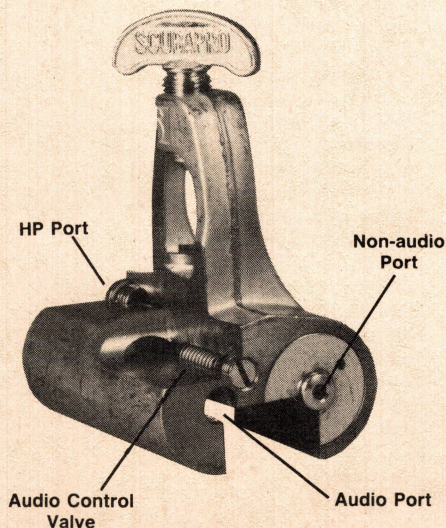
Materials used in the second stage are durable and corrosion resistant: chrome plated brass in the case (front and rear), clamping ring and demand valve body; stainless steel in the demand lever and valve spring; neoprene rubber in the valve seat, diaphragm cover, mouthpiece and exhaust tee; and silicone rubber in the diaphragm and exhaust valve.

Because of the design and materials of this regulator, maintenance is minimal. Scubapro recommends a freshwater rinse after use, preferably with the regulator pressurized with air; air drying; and storage with the spacer/key inserted at the purge, to reduce deforming the demand valve seat. Annual service by an authorized Scubapro dealer is required in order to keep the limited, lifetime warranty in effect. The cost of this service should be very nominal—limited to labor charges and the three replacement parts (i.e., mouthpieces, hose assemblies and HP inlet filters) that are not covered by warranty after the first year (the HP inlet filter is not covered under any warranty).

As for performance, the summary on my underwater slate says: "easy breather." With the second stage adjustment set to give the least inhalation resistance, the Mark VII performed very well. Inhalation and exhalation resistances were quite minimal in the various orientations tried and, as expected, followed the typical behavior of a single hose regulator. No idiosyncrasies were observed. Freeflowing was typical for a finely tuned regulator, but when the adjustment knob was turned to give maximum inhalation resistance, freeflowing ceased to exist. Only one position (standing on my head, with my head tilted back) produced a little water leakage. This was not bothersome, however, since the only time I have ever been in this position has been while evaluating regulators. What was bothersome, was the sonic alarm which began somewhere between 300 and 400 psi. The sound and the feeling produced by the oscillator were unmistakable—air was getting low and it was time to terminate the dive. This warning would be hard to ignore. Quite a safety feature, that.

If you are prone to forget the monitoring of your SPG, tend to drain your tank or just want some additional protection underwater, consider Scubapro's Mark VII regulator. I found it to be a fine performer and I'm certain you will too. It is available at your local Scubapro dealer for \$380. >

Below: A cutaway of the Mark VII first stage. Right: First stage showing audio and non-audio low pressure ports. Below right: The adjustable second stage with knurled knob in the foreground.



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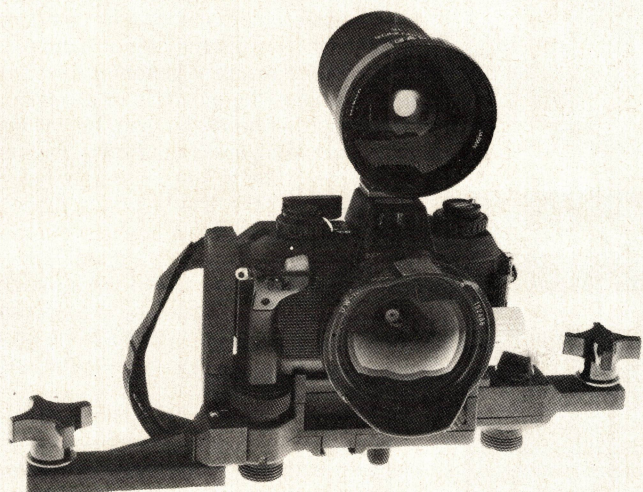
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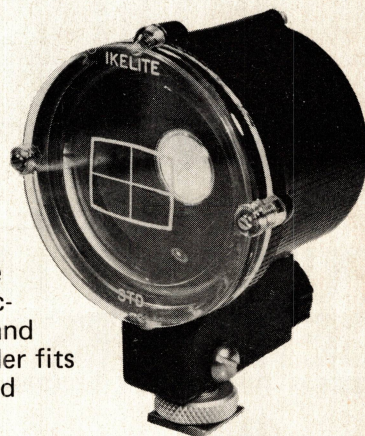


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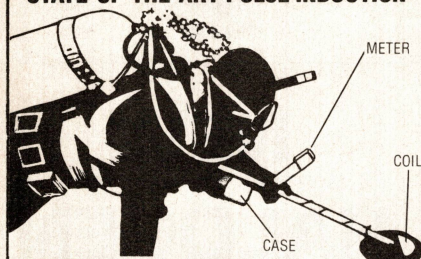
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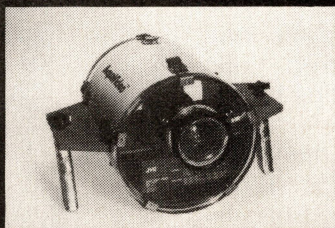
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Rx FOR DIVERS

(Continued from Page 44)

may be frightening. The back and neck are arched and the entire body becomes quite rigid. If the person is standing, he may fall like a log and may sustain injury when he strikes his head. The jaw is tightly clenched and sometimes the tongue, lips, or cheek may be severely bitten between clenched teeth. Breathing stops, sometimes long enough that he or she becomes quite blue. This phase lasts 20 to 30 seconds, rarely as long as a minute. The generalized rigidity relaxes and is followed by convulsions in a series of violent jerks. During this time, breathing is irregular and the subject may chew on his tongue. This phase lasts less than a minute. There may be loss of control of both bowel and bladder.

When the jerking subsides, the subject usually awakens and seems bewildered. This confused state may last for an hour or more, then the subject frequently falls deeply asleep, perhaps for several hours.

Although a grand mal convulsion is frightening to watch, it is not terribly dangerous unless the victim is in a position of exposure. If he is climbing, he will fall; if driving, crash; if diving, drown. The observer should try to keep him from hitting his head if he falls. It is helpful to place a firm object between his teeth, such as a folded belt or billfold—not a finger, which may be severely bitten, and not a spoon, which may break the teeth. The seizure victim must be attended through the period of bewilderment else he may get lost or wander off into traffic.

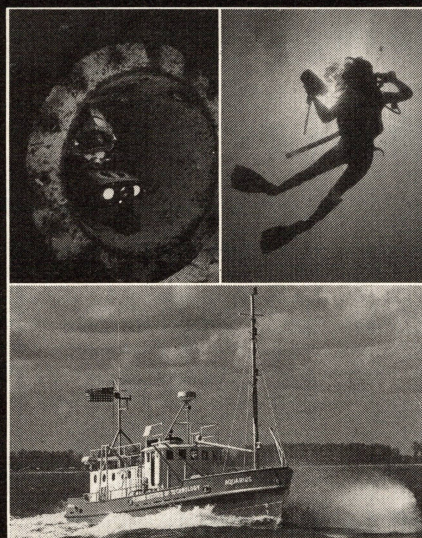
The diagnosis of epilepsy must be approached with caution because of the social and economic costs that may overshadow the disease itself. A majority of epileptics, upward of 75 percent, can be kept seizure free with anticonvulsant medications, and lead reasonably normal lives. Those with uncontrolled seizures are severely handicapped with respect to driving, employment and social success. It is important to sift out the categories of fever induced seizures in infancy, breath-holding spells, postural "sight-of-blood" fainting and disorder of heart rhythm before labeling a person an epileptic.

Once established, the diagnosis poses three important questions:

1. Does diving increase the likelihood of seizures in an epileptic patient?
2. Should a person under treatment with anticonvulsant medication dive?
3. Should a person who has outgrown his epilepsy dive?

People with epilepsy are said to have a lowered seizure threshold. This means that they are more susceptible to seizures than the general populace. Therefore, stimuli which induce seizures in some

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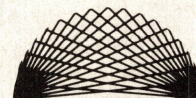
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RIGHT FROM THE START SEE THE DIVER'S DIRECTORY IN THIS ISSUE



Rx FOR DIVERS

percentage of the general populace will be more likely to do so in those who already have epilepsy. Examples of such stimuli are prolonged sleep deprivation, alcohol or sedative withdrawal, visual stimulation with rapidly flashing lights and hyperventilation. The latter is of particular interest to divers. Hyperventilation at atmospheric pressure is routinely used to test for seizure susceptibility in the neurological lab.

The effect of hyperbaric oxygen on epileptic populations has not been studied. However, it is well established that high partial pressure of oxygen may induce seizures in normal individuals. Navy diving standards require that candidates undergo an oxygen tolerance test in which they breathe pure oxygen for 30 minutes at a depth equivalent of 60 feet in a chamber. This test is designed to screen out those candidates who are susceptible to oxygen toxicity. About one percent of normal candidates have grand mal seizures under these conditions.

The oxygen tolerance test is based on the assumption that all divers will be subject to increased pO₂ in their work or perhaps in treatment and on the further assumption that the test will help to eliminate susceptible candidates. It is quite likely that persons with epilepsy have an increased risk of oxygen convulsions.

Patients with uncontrolled epilepsy are at constant risk. They frequently fall and suffer head injuries. They may fall from ladders, burn themselves with hot irons and be knocked down in traffic. Clearly, they should not dive.

The well-controlled epileptic leads a fairly normal life. His illness is not apparent to observers and he has no physical handicap. In most jurisdictions, he can obtain a conditional driver's license if he has been seizure free for one year, and in almost all jurisdictions, for two years. He cannot get a pilot's license, a commercial driver's license and will not meet the physical requirements for military or commercial diving.

What of the sport diver? His own life is certainly at risk. Should a seizure occur underwater, he may drown or suffer air embolism in an uncontrolled ascent. Both of these accidents have occurred in nonepileptic subjects with oxygen convulsions. These are personal risks. There is yet another. The diver who has trouble underwater exposes to risk other members of the diving party and perhaps members of the search party. Value judgements come into play here and no two circumstances are comparable. The law takes notice of the epileptic diver, not because of risk to the individual, but to the public. The public safety is greatly endangered by an automobile driver who

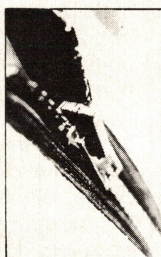
MORAY DIVE SUITS

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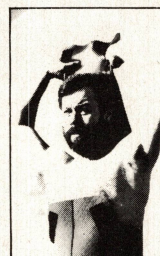
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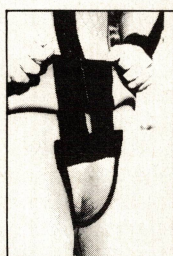
Super stretch deep pile
diamond nylon for easy
entry, resistance to
abrasion and ultraviolet
damage.



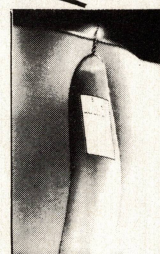
Delrin zip with
corrosion free
NICKLE SILVER
slider



Long John top
smoothskin
continuous neck
seal, velcro
fastened



Triple velcro
fastener



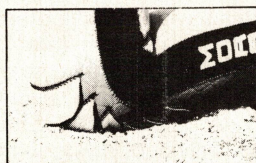
Shaped and
contoured spine
pad in Long
John



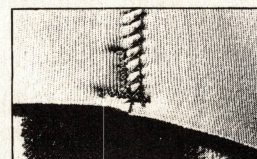
Double sealed fly
zip optional extra



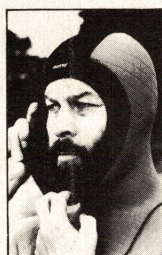
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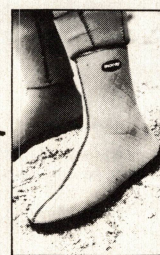
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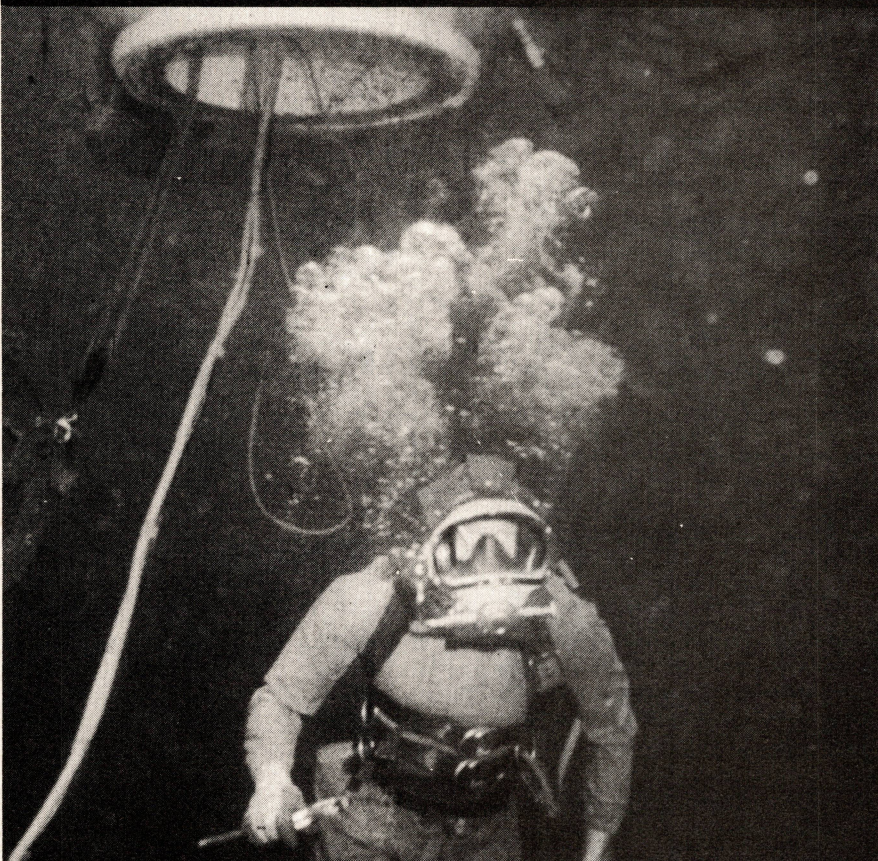
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Rx FOR DIVERS

has a seizure. With the diver, the public risk is much less but not negligible. The law generally accepts that a seizure-free interval of two years, under treatment, constitutes control sufficient to operate a motor vehicle. The risk of recurrent seizures in the controlled subject is nevertheless several times that of the general population. The controlled epileptic also pays a price in side effects of medications. Virtually all anticonvulsant medications have some sedative effect. Variation among individuals, both with respect to dosage and susceptibility to sedation, is great. The average dose of medication for epilepsy usually produces only mild sedation. These drugs, however, would be expected to increase the hazard of nitrogen narcosis, in the same manner as alcohol does.

About 20 percent of children with epilepsy outgrow the disorder by age 21. Someone with childhood epilepsy who has reached adulthood, seizure free for five years, is generally regarded as cured for legal purposes, except for the requirements of flying and special military service. Although his risk of recurrent seizure is more than random, it is quite small.

Based on these principles, the following recommendations seem reasonable:

1. The diagnosis of epilepsy disqualifies anyone for military and commercial diving, without exception.

2. Individuals who have been seizure free for five years and take no medication have a small statistical risk of recurrent seizures. There is no definite evidence that diving will increase the risk of recurrence. They should be advised to avoid hyperventilation and cautioned that elevated partial pressures of oxygen may precipitate seizures.

3. Individuals with controlled epilepsy, taking medication, seizure free for two years, meeting the requirements of most driving jurisdictions, should nevertheless be advised not to dive. While driving is important to livelihood, diving is not and the risk, both to the individual and his companions, is unacceptable.

LIVE U/W VIDEO

WBZ-TV, in Boston, MA teamed up with United Divers (Sommerville, MA) to produce the first live underwater video broadcast in New England. Filming took place in the New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank, home to several sharks, turtles, moray eels and a variety of fish. Cameraman/diver, Dan Marotta, captured the feeding of turtles and fish as part of *Live at 5:30*—an evening news feature program.

The underwater video equipment consisted of a Panasonic camera in a custom Ikelite housing. Equipment was provided by Jim Estabrook of United Divers.

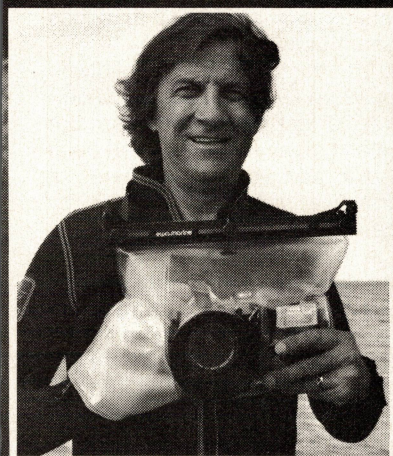
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Flip Schulke, author of "Underwater Photography for Everyone":

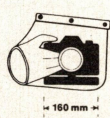
"EWA's new MASTER underwater camera housing is easy to operate even at a depth of 100 feet. I can use it with any of my cameras and a variety of lenses, motors, and strobes. It is the ideal camera housing for vacationers and traveling pros alike."

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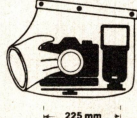


Shown: model FXP with strobe, winder or zoom lens, fits most 35mm SLR cameras, list price \$89.95. For larger cameras or movie cameras please request more detailed product information. See the new EWA MASTER at your photo, marine, or dive shop, or call 1-800-257-7742. In New Jersey, or outside the continental U.S. call 609-854-2424. Or Write: **PIONEER & COMPANY**, 216 Haddon Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108

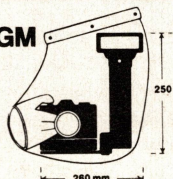
U-F



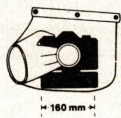
U-FXP



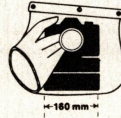
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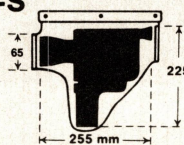
U-FXM



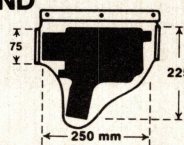
U-FPN



U-S



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HENDERSON Freedom Wetsuits

Hassle-free, warm & comfortable

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE



Stretchy, lightweight neoprene, lined with either Lycra or nylon, makes these suits easy to put on and take off. Mike Cardone models a farmer john; Debbie Graves, a waist high.

In days of yore, wetsuits were basic black and skin two sides: The struggle to get into one left you out of breath and weak with fatigue. It was a good idea to put your suit on early so you could rest up for the dive!

Today's divers are spared the agony of pulling on a garment that closely resembles a whole-body girdle. Modern wetsuits, lined with nylon or Lycra, go on and come off much easier than their predecessors. Today's divers even look good, thanks to the new, flexible neoprenes and the bright colors possible with nylon and Lycra.

The Freedom wetsuits from Henderson are good examples of attractive modern garments. They are so named because there is freedom from hassle in donning and wearing them. This is owing in part to the nylon linings, but just as important is their stretchy, lightweight neoprene. The combination of slippery linings and flexible neoprene make putting on a Henderson Freedom suit almost as easy as putting on a pair of jeans.

SKIN DIVER received a couple of off-the-rack Freedom suits for testing. There are two models; one with farmer john pants, the other with waist high pants and eight inch side zipper. The

jacket is the same for both models. Both pairs of pants are black on the outside, blue inside and have knee pads for extra protection. The farmer johns are cut from only two pieces of rubber. This means that there are fewer seams for greater comfort. There is a seam on the inside of each leg as well as one up the middle of the torso, front and back. On the waist high, a second piece of rubber forms the lower part of the legs. There is a seam below the knee and at the back for "bendability." The side zipper on these pants is by YKK. It has Delrin teeth and a brass pull. It makes putting on the waist highs (no Herculean task to begin with) even easier. Both the farmer johns and the waist highs have all edges bound with sewn on, stretchy Lycra seam tape. The men's versions of both models have a gusset at the crotch for comfort and flexibility. The farmer johns close at the shoulders with Velcro tabs.

The freedom jacket has a blue torso with black arms and beavertail. The heavy duty YKK zipper has Delrin teeth and a brass pull. There is a high collar for warmth. The beavertail is held in place with two Velcro tabs. These may look flimsy to those used to beavertails with stainless steel twist locks, but consider the following: Velcro is sturdy; it doesn't corrode, can't get bent out of shape, won't rust and can be adjusted to fit you. And, Velcro tabs are certainly easier to use. The Freedom jacket also has few seams for comfort and all its edges are bound with the sewn on seam tape.

I wore a waist high nylon two Freedom suit for a day of diving at Catalina Island. The suit slipped on easily; no broken fingernails, no tired arms. In the first 20 feet of water I was more buoyant than with my usual suit and, if my entire dive had been that shallow, I would have had to add about five pounds of weight. However, since my first dive was to 90 feet and my second to 60, this was unnecessary. And, once past 20 feet, I could stop kicking and float to the bottom.

Even though the Henderson suit was a stock medium, it looked as good and fit as well as if had been made for me. One of the great advantages of the flexible neoprene is that it stretches to fit a variety of body contours. Thus, this same waist high suit also fit and looked good on my three inches shorter, 15 pounds lighter neighbor, Debbie, my model. Because the suit hugs the body, waterflow within it is minimal. Because it is so flexible, it does not restrict movement. I found the suit warm and comfortable both U/W and between dives.

The Henderson Freedom suits are available in two thicknesses (one-quarter inch and three-sixteenths inch) and three fabrics: nylon two sides; nylon outside/plush nylon terry cloth inside; and Lycra outside/terry cloth inside. They range in price from \$220 to \$375 for stock suits; custom suits are available for slightly more. Henderson also makes matching hoods, booties and gloves.

One of the other advantages of the new Freedom suits is the sheen of the blue/black nylon. It should reflect light underwater instead of absorbing it, making the wearer photogenic.

Try a Freedom suit at your Henderson dealer. For the name of the one nearest you write: Henderson Aquatics, Inc., One Whitall Avenue, Millville, NJ 08332.

CAMMAN

SDM SPECIAL TRAVEL SECTION



CAYMAN



The Mt. Everest of Diving Adventure

In each sport, there is one place or event which is recognized worldwide as the ultimate adventure: Mountain climbers have Mount Everest; for sailors it's the America's Cup and for sport car fans, it's the Monaco Grand Prix.

For divers, there are many adventures and each has its own distinctive attractions and rewards. But there is one which stands out in the minds of many traveling divers as the ultimate in both adventure under the sea and vacation pleasure on land. It is called Cayman—now the most popular island destination in the world.

Why Cayman? Because it is very special. It is truly a Mount Everest in the world of diving: a tall mountain peak rising vertically from the Caribbean seafloor. For a diver, Cayman is a parade of drop-offs, each one more breathtaking and more beautiful than the one before. And, each of these drop-offs is covered in a living tapestry of exquisite



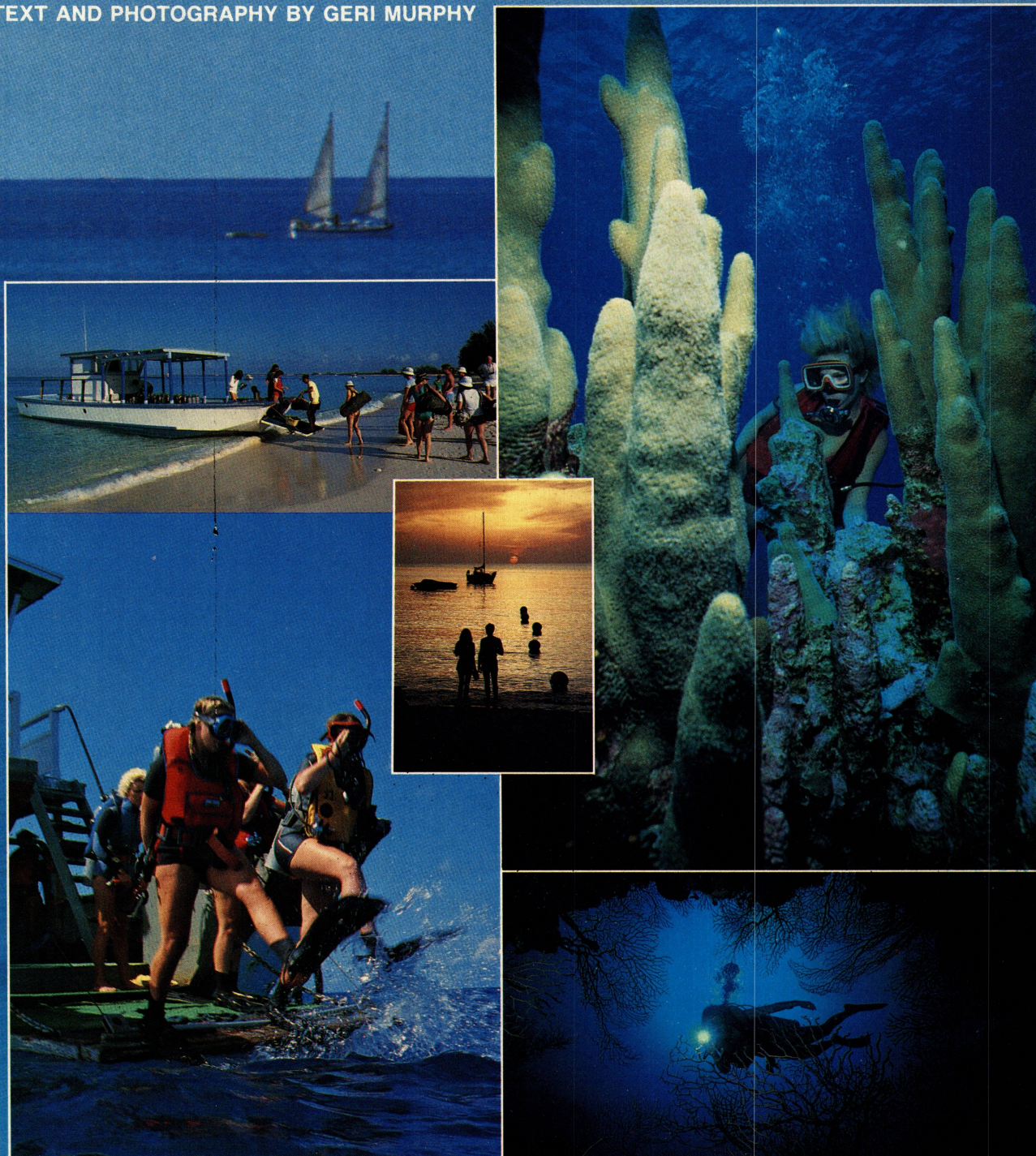
sponges, coral trees and lush marine growth. The wonder of Cayman's drop-offs is that each one is so distinctively different, producing a marvelous array of coral formations that include great canyons, awesome pinnacles, sprawling sand chutes and twisting vertical chimneys that beg for exploration.

Cayman's drop-offs are unequalled in splendor, but well matched by the thrill and fascination of its resident marine life. Tarpon Alley is a one-of-a-kind adventure which offers the diver a rare opportunity to swim in a school of four foot long tarpon. Valley of the Rays is a half-mile of pure white sand bottom

inhabited by a family of giant stingrays that can be observed and photographed at close range. At the *Balboa* wreck, a diver can experience the strange sensation of being virtually covered by a swarm of sergeant majors. On every drop-off there are encounters with graceful eagle rays, schools of friendly horse-eye jacks and a dozen other fabulous creatures of the sea. Cayman is an underwater zoo without bars or fences—a gathering place in the open sea for creatures of all kinds.

And, if drop-offs and schooling fish are not enough, Cayman offers a multitude of other under-

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY



The many images of Cayman, above and below the water's surface, illustrate the variety of exciting experiences available.



sea thrills. There are caves and caverns filled with silvery anchovies. There are marvelous coral gardens in shallow water which provide hours of beautiful snorkeling. There are shipwrecks for exploration and fish feeding stations for pure entertainment. Best of all, the diving in Cayman is easy and convenient. Its waters are warm, clear and frequently flat calm.

LOCATION

The Cayman Islands are in the center of the western Caribbean; 480 miles due

activities including: tennis, sailing, jetski rides, parasailing, marlin fishing, sunbathing and superb diving.

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are two small sister islands approximately 70 miles east of Grand Cayman. They sit side by side, separated by less than a mile of open water. They are about 10 to 12 miles in length and a mile or so in width. Sparsely populated, each of the islands has three small hotels but no shopping or nightlife. Surrounded by virgin coral reefs and beautiful drop-offs, these two islands offer the ultimate in diving to the serious diver.

The Cayman Islands are a British colony with approximately 16,000 residents. They have a very stable government, an excellent economy, an English speaking population and dozens of expert dive

guides and scuba instructors, most of who have either lived or been trained in the U.S. The people of Cayman are very friendly, outgoing, talkative and seem to love American visitors. You will always feel welcome in this tropical paradise.

In spite of its small size, Cayman has become an extremely successful and wealthy island nation. With more than 400 banks, Grand Cayman is now considered to be the investment capital and offshore banking center of the western hemisphere. It is often called the Little Switzerland of the Caribbean.

WEATHER

The Cayman Islands are blessed with a remarkable climate which does not vary much from summer to winter. The temperature ranges from 75 to 85°F.



Eastern Airlines



Cayman Airways



Republic Airlines

south of Miami, less than a one and one-half hour flight by commercial jet. The islands are easily accessible from the U.S. mainland with direct non-stop flights from Houston, Miami and Jamaica.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Cayman Islands is their position in the Caribbean basin. The islands lie at the northwestern end of the Cayman Trench, an extremely deep portion of the Caribbean seafloor that runs between Jamaica and the Caymans. There is one spot off Grand Cayman where the ocean is more than four and one-half miles deep. It is this surrounding deep water environment which keeps the reefs of Cayman clear and filled with a wide variety of fish life.

THE ISLANDS

Cayman is not one, but actually three islands. The largest is called Grand Cayman and the two smaller ones are known as Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. All three islands offer superb dive opportunities and have the necessary scuba facilities, hotels, boats and airports.

Grand Cayman is by far the most developed. This island is equipped with a modern jet airport, a variety of good hotels, many restaurants, some nightclubs, a growing freeport shopping district, booming condominium development and a large financial banking establishment. It is the perfect vacation choice for someone desiring a full range of recreational

Non-stop flights to the Cayman Islands are available from Houston, Miami and Jamaica.



Cayman

islands



SKIN DIVER magazine calls them "The Superbowl of Scuba — the main event of dive adventure. There's no place in the world quite like them."

What more can be said, except whether you are getting your first checkout in open water, or an experienced diver, the Cayman Islands offer the widest variety of closeby dive sites and experiences, than any dive destination in the world.

And they are only an hour's flight — 470 miles directly south of Miami — on Cayman Airways. Less than 3 hours nonstop from Houston. And Cayman Airways is the only airline offering First Class and Coach 727-200 super-service from both Miami and Houston. What's more you can fly to all three Cayman Islands, stay as long as you like on each island, for the price of airfare to one.

Cayman Airways also flies to the Turks and Caicos islands — another popular dive destination.

For information and reservations call your dive shop, travel agent or:

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CAYMAN

What makes these island destinations consistently perfect in the weather department? Once again, it is the ideal location of the Caymans. They are far enough south to enjoy a warm sunny environment in the winter. The area is unaffected by the coldfronts which sweep through the

North American continent. Cayman skies are usually blue and the sun's rays are strong enough to burn or tan.

During the summer, ocean trade winds prevent the Cayman Islands from becoming overheated. Even in August, they remain comfortable and cool.

Packing for a trip to the Cayman Islands is easy. Lightweight clothing is all that is required. Most visitors dress in casual shorts, sandals and short-sleeved shirts. T-shirts are popular for daytime wear in town or on the beach. If you are going out in the evening for dinner, the

dress is usually lightweight slacks, a sport shirt and perhaps a lightweight jacket for a more formal restaurant.

WATER TEMPERATURE

The water temperature in these islands ranges from 80°F in the winter to 84°F in the summer. Many visitors dive without any form of wetsuit, wearing only an old T-shirt and swimsuit. However, a lightweight one-eighth inch wetsuit is recommended for added comfort and protection against coral scratches. Also highly recommended is a pair of cotton gloves for protection against stinging hydroids.

LANGUAGE

English is the spoken language on all three islands. American travelers will have no difficulty communicating with Caymanians. Their speech is kind of singsong tempo of Cornish, Irish, Scottish and Welsh.

HOW TO GET THERE

Three airlines operate daily flights in and out of Cayman—Cayman Airways, Republic Airlines and Air Jamaica. There are non-stop direct flights to Cayman from both Houston and Miami, as well as nearby Kingston, Jamaica.

Cayman Airways is the carrier best identified with diving visitors. It is the official flag carrier for the Cayman Islands and has been in operation for over 12 years. The Cayman Airways staff is extremely cordial, very efficient and sympathetic to the special needs of the traveling diver. They are extremely proud of both their airline and their island and try to do everything possible to make the trip a pleasant one.

At present, Cayman Airways operates non-stop flights aboard 727 jets from Miami to Grand Cayman twice daily with an extra morning flight on Thursdays. The flight from Miami to Grand Cayman takes approximately one hour, 15 minutes. There is also a direct flight from Miami to Cayman Brac twice weekly. This flight takes approximately two hours, 20 minutes, as it is on a smaller aircraft.

From Houston, Cayman Airways operates non-stop jet service to Grand Cayman four times weekly, on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The flight takes approximately three hours. If you are coming from the West Coast to make the Houston flight, Eastern Airlines has a daily non-stop flight from Los Angeles and San Francisco that allows enough time to travel to Cayman all in the same day.

There are also flights several times a week between Kingston, Jamaica and Grand Cayman, thus allowing travelers to arrange a two-country tour of the Caribbean in the same trip. Cayman Airways has just initiated jet service from Miami to Grand Turk and on to Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman.

Republic Airlines operates two daily



Statuettes (above) and Burger King (right).

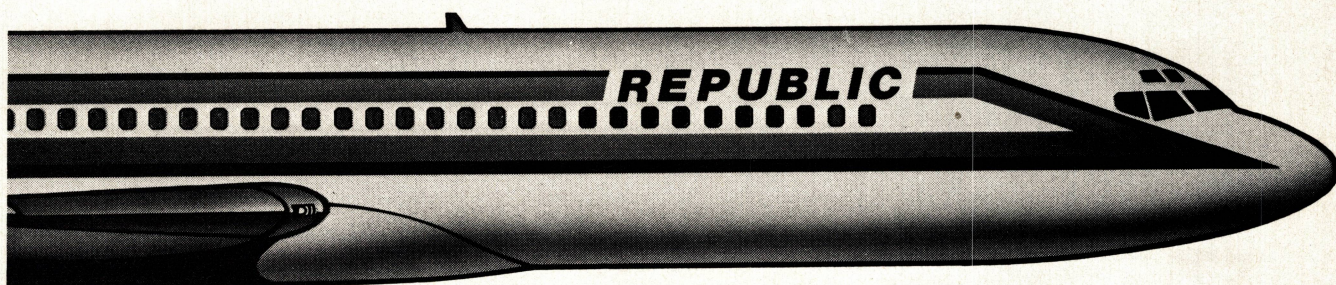


Main Street, George Town.

Right: Black coral jewelry. Grand Cayman's freeport shopping opportunities are unique, with many items unobtainable in other parts of the Caribbean.



Republic Has An Exclusive On The Caymans.



Republic Airlines is the only United States carrier to serve the Cayman Islands. With convenient connections available throughout the U.S. and Canada every day.

The Caymans are some of the most beautiful islands in the Caribbean. They're Republic's tropical island getaway, providing the ultimate in relaxation and escape.

For information or reservations, call a travel agent, your corporate travel planner or Republic Airlines.


REPUBLIC AIRLINES
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non-stop jet flights from Miami to Grand Cayman. In addition to these 14 direct flights a week, Republic offers several other connecting flights from major cities in the Midwest including; Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis, etc.

Eastern Airlines provides excellent and convenient connections from all major U.S. cities in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast to Miami.

Air Jamaica flies from Grand Cayman to Kingston several times weekly and once a week from Cayman to Montego Bay. It is now possible to fly from Grand Cayman to Miami via a connection in Jamaica, utilizing the frequent flight schedule of Air Jamaica.

Inter-island service is provided daily by Cayman Airways. If you are traveling from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac there are two flights daily except Tuesday. The flight from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac is approximately 45 minutes long aboard a 16 seat Trislander. The Trislander goes on to Little Cayman four or five times weekly. It's a five minute flight between the Brac and Little Cayman. Because of the multitude of flights departing on various days, it is best to refer to the Cayman Airways printed schedule for up-to-date information. Cayman Airways is instituting a new jet service twice weekly from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac and onto Miami. For information and reservations call the numbers listed in the Airline Reservations and Flight Information sidebar below:

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS AND FLIGHT INFORMATION

	Nationwide Toll Free
Air Jamaica	(800) 523-5618
Cayman Airways	(800) 422-9626
Eastern Airlines	(800) 327-8376
Republic Airlines	(800) 441-1414

RECONFIRMATION

Once you have landed in the Caymans, it is extremely important that you reconfirm your return flight reservations. While departure arrangements may be the farthest thing from your mind, reconfirmation is best accomplished at the time of arrival. It can be done right at the airport or at the downtown ticket office, or by telephone. The airlines require that you

LOCAL CAYMAN NUMBERS

Air Jamaica	9-2300
Cayman Airways	
Reservations	9-2311
Information	9-2572
Republic Airlines	9-2955

reconfirm your flight reservations 72 hours (three days) prior to departure.

ENTERING THE COUNTRY

Visitors will be pleasantly surprised to discover that the Cayman Islands government officials are very cordial and efficient. Proceeding through immigrations is quick and simple.

While you are enroute by air to Cayman, you will be given an immigration entry form. It is a simple card which takes only a few minutes to fill out and sign. Up-

on entering the Cayman air terminal, you will first pass through immigrations and then have your baggage checked.

Cayman immigration law requires three things of visitors; proof of citizenship, a completed entry form and a return air ticket. A passport is not necessary for U.S. and Canadian citizens, although it is the easiest form of identification. A voter's registration card is an acceptable alternative for those without a passport. An automobile driver's license is not acceptable as proof of citizenship. Passports

CAYMAN DIVE OPERATORS

Dive Operation	Owner/Manager	Phone	Location	Tanks	No. Boats	U/W Guides
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. Cayman Islander	Etta "Suzi" Powell	9-5533	Cayman Islander Hotel	Hdqtrs.	1	1
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. Holiday Inn	Georgia Dolack	7-4444	Holiday Inn	Hdqtrs.	2	3
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. London House	Miriam Bodden	9-3600	London House	Hdqtrs.	1	1
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. Scuba Center	Pat Scharr-Mavec	9-2483	South of Lobster Pot	100	1	4
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. Lobster Pot Hdqtrs.	Ron Kipp	9-2022	Lobster Pot Restaurant	300	2	11
Brac Aquatics Buccaneer's Inn	Winston McDermott	8-7429	Cayman Brac	220	3	5
Calypso Divers	Dave Miller	9-5474	George Town	60	2	2
Cayman Diving Lodge East End	Garth Easton	7-7555	East End	110	1	3
Cayman Kai Resort North Side	John Darby	7-9556	North Side	50	2	3
Clint Ebanks Scuba Cayman, Ltd.	Clinton Ebanks	9-3873	Seven Mile Beach	75	2	3
Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd.	Don and Jill Foster	9-5679	Royal Palms Hotel	160	3	8
Eden Rock Diving Center	Stuart Freeman	9-7243	Caymandicraft Bldg.	80	None	1
F.L.A.G. U/W Services Ltd. George Town	Gerry Willcocks	9-2606	George Town	100	None	1
Fisheye Photographic Services, Ltd.	Martin Sutton Ahuva Zaid	7-4209	Trafalgar Place	None	2	3
M/V Cayman Diver	Jerry Jones	9-2007	Town Pier	20	1	2
Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman, Ltd.	Peter Milburn	7-4341	Seven Mile Beach	80	2	2
Pirates Point Little Cayman	Danny Hughes	7-4324	Little Cayman	40	4	2
Quabbin Dives (Cayman)	Atlee and Teri Evans	9-5597	George Town	110	2	2
Seasports Limited	Butch Sjostrom	9-3965	Seven Mile Beach	40	2	1
South Cove	Wayne Hasson	9-2514	South/George Town	210	2	5
Southern Cross Club Little Cayman	Mike and Donna Emmanuel	None	Little Cayman	60	1	1
Spanish Cove West Bay	Harry Ward	9-3765	West Bay	362	4	6
Sunset Divers Sunset House Resort	Adrian Briggs	9-5966	South/George Town	250	3	5
Surfside Watersports Le Club Cayman	Joe Donahue	7-4224	Seven Mile Beach	90	4	5
Tortuga Club East End	Doc Anes	7-7551	East End	65	1	2

are required by British, Commonwealth (except Canadian) and all other foreign nationalities.

After clearing immigration, you will be required to pick out your luggage and present it for inspection by a Cayman customs officer. The inspector may want to go through your suitcase, dive gear bag and whatever carry-on luggage you may have. Do not attempt to smuggle in any type of illegal contraband such as handguns, ammunition or explosives.

A special warning to those to whom it may apply; do not attempt to bring in any sort of illegal drugs and this includes marijuana. The Cayman Islands have the most severe anti-drug laws in the Caribbean. Violators are immediately arrested and taken off to jail. Visiting tourists are not immune to this enforcement. Prosecuted violators can receive jail terms of up to ten years and fines up to \$20,000.

TAXIS

Once you have cleared customs and immigration at the airport, you will probably want to get to your hotel as quickly as possible and settle in for your vacation. As you exit from the air terminal building, you will see a line of taxis comprised of every type of vehicle imaginable, including large sedans, station wagons and vans. It is a welcome sight to visiting divers who are usually lugging bulky gear bags and suitcases full of camera accessories. One thing is for sure—there is no shortage of taxis on Grand Cayman.

You are not likely to see very many hotel courtesy vans at the airport as most of the hotels leave the driving to the Taxi Association. According to Cayman law, licensed taxis are just about the only vehicles which can make commercial passenger pickups at the airport. The only exception to this rule are those hotels in the more remote corners of the island, such as East End or Northside. In these cases, hotel courtesy transportation is provided because of the long distances.

The Taxi Association has established taxi service rates from the airport to the various hotels on the island and these are published once a year in a Rate Sheet and Fact Folder which is printed and distributed by the Department of Tourism. A typical fare from the airport to the Holiday Inn is about \$8.50 (U.S.) with a maximum of five passengers. The taxi ride to most hotels along Seven Mile Beach takes about 20 to 30 minutes.

Cayman taxi drivers are very friendly and talkative. These drivers are very proud of their heritage and eager to tell you about their islands. They are most willing to give passengers an ongoing narration of the passing sights as though it were a guided tour.

GETTING AROUND

Once you have arrived at your hotel and settled in, you may want to consider renting a car or motor bike to explore the



Fish feeding at the *Oro Verde*.

rest of the island. There are many car rental agencies and a few motor bike rental agencies on Grand Cayman.

To rent a vehicle in the Cayman Islands, you must present a valid driver's license from your home state or country. The rental agency will then issue you a temporary Visitors Driving Permit for Cayman. There is a small fee of \$3 (U.S.) for this permit and it is valid for the duration of your visit. In addition to the temporary driving permit, you will be asked if you would like to purchase accident insurance with the car rental. Remember—in the Caymans, drive on the left side!

Just about any type of vehicle you require is available, ranging from jeeps to full sized vans. If you are fussy and have particular needs in mind, such as air conditioning or automatic shift, then it would be wise to telephone ahead to reserve the car of your choice. Also, keep in mind

RENTAL CAR/RESERVATIONS

Ace-Hertz Rent-a-Car	(800) 654-3131
Cico-Avis Rent-a-Car	(800) 331-2112
Budget Rent-a-Car	(800) 228-9650
Coconut Car Rental	(809) 949-4037
Dollar Rent-a-Car	(809) 949-2981
Holiday Payless Rentals	(809) 949-7074
National Car Rental	(800) 328-4567
Savers Rent-a-Car	(809) 949-5772
Thrifty Rent-a-Car	(800) 367-2277

MOTORCYCLE RESERVATIONS

Honda-Caribbean Motors	(809) 949-4051
Yamaha-Cayman Cycles	(809) 947-4021

that each rental agency may have a different inventory of car models. For example, Cico-Avis features AMC Jeeps and Honda Civic compacts while Budget offers Fords and Toyotas.



Incidentally, you cannot pick up your rental car at the airport terminal since there are no facilities there. Most rental car agencies have their main offices in George Town. However, Cico-Avis has additional offices and cars available at both the Holiday Inn and an office one-quarter mile from the airport terminal. In addition, most of the rental agencies will deliver the car to your hotel or condo as a courtesy service. Rental car services are currently available on Grand Cayman only; they have not yet been established on Little Cayman or Cayman Brac.

The phone numbers in the Rental Car/Reservations sidebar will help you make your reservations when calling from the U.S. The agencies which show an area code of (809) are long distance pay calls direct to Grand Cayman. The agencies which show an area code of (800) are U.S. nationwide toll free.

MONEY EXCHANGE

There are two types of currency in wide circulation among the Cayman Islands—U.S. dollars and the official currency of



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Phone: (809) 949-2468 (day) • 949-4242 (night) • 949-2844 (Holiday Inn)
Telex: 4243 CICO CP Write: CICO, Box 400, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

COMMISSIONS TO TRAVEL AGENTS PAID PROMPTLY

the Cayman Islands, C.I. dollars. Both are happily accepted by hotels, stores, dive operators and restaurants. However, if you pay for something in U.S. dollars, you are most likely to receive your change in C.I. dollars.

Most of the business establishments in Cayman will quote you their prices for goods and services in C.I. dollars. C.I. stands for Cayman Islands. As with the U.S. system, one Cayman dollar is equal to 100 Cayman cents.

The Cayman Islands paper notes are very colorful and display a portrait of the Queen on the front and different pictures depicting local scenes on the reverse side. The notes are issued in the following denominations: \$1 (blue); \$5 (green); \$10 (red); \$25 (brown & orange); \$40 (purple); and \$100 (orange). Coins presently in circulation are in 1, 5, 10 and 25 cent denominations.

The main difference between U.S. dollars and Cayman dollars is the fact that they are not equal in value. According to an agreement of the International Monetary Fund, the exchange rate is fixed at C.I. \$1.00 = U.S. \$1.20. However, restaurants and shops will convert at U.S. \$1.25 in order to cover bank charges. If you expect to spend a large sum of money during your visit, it may be worth your time to stop in at one of the downtown banks to exchange your dollars at a more favorable rate.

It also bears mentioning at this point

Cayman Dive Boat Returning



But it hasn't been far.

What makes the Caymans different from all other dive locations in the world—they rank among the top three—is the incredible number and variety of dive sites closeby.

Walk off Seven Mile Beach and submerge in a fairyland of caves and coral castles teeming with exotic marine life a few yards from shore. Jump off the dock in George Town harbor and swim out to the wreck of the Balboa in 35 feet of water. Take a short boat trip to the famous Northeast Wall off Grand Cayman. It begins 100 feet down and plummets to an abyss 6000 feet deep.

Or spend all your time on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Enough different dive sites and conditions to fill a dozen log books, where it's not uncommon for a pair of divers to burn 25 tanks of air on a single trip.

Plenty of dive shops with complete rental gear. More qualified dive masters than any island in the Caribbean. A two-man recompression chamber on Grand Cayman.

Dive lodges. Cottages. Condominiums that can be rented for long or short periods. Ocean front hotels. Luxurious clubs and villas.

An hour's flight from Miami. Less than 3 hours from Houston, Texas on Cayman Airways. For information and reservations call 305-444-6551. Or write.

**Cayman  Islands
Department of Tourism**

250 Catalonia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134

circle #138 on Reader Service Card



that while most Cayman hotels accept credit cards, there are many bars, restaurants, shops and small services which do not. It would be wise to bring a small amount of cash and the rest of your money in travelers checks in order to avoid the embarrassment of having a credit card refused.

While it is true that most responses to your question of "how much is my bill?" are answered in C.I. dollars, most restaurants and stores will give on-the-spot translations of what that means to you in U.S. dollars. To give you a reference point to work from in converting your money from U.S. dollars to C.I. dollars and vice-versa, we have prepared Currency Exchange Rate charts which you will find below. Please note that the conversions were based on the U.S. \$1.25 = C.I. \$1.00 rate.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

U.S. Dollars	Cayman Dollars
\$ 1.00	\$.80
2.00	1.60
5.00	4.00
10.00	8.00
20.00	16.00
50.00	40.00
100.00	80.00

Cayman Dollars	U.S. Dollars
\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25
5.00	6.25
10.00	12.50
25.00	31.25
40.00	50.00
100.00	125.00

ELECTRICITY

Underwater photographers and night divers dependent on ni-cad powered strobes and lights will be happy to learn that the Cayman Islands power system is completely compatible with their charging equipment. Standard electricity in the Caymans is 110 volt AC at 60 cycles. Charging ni-cad battery packs, strobes and movie lights can be easily accomplished right in the hotel rooms as the outlets are just like those in the U.S. In addition, visitors may use their favorite electric shavers, hair dryers and radios.

TELEPHONE

The Cayman Islands have a modern automatic telephone system which enables visitors to call anywhere among the three islands or put through an international call to most anywhere in the world.

When making a local call in the Cayman Islands, a five digit number is used (such as 9-2311). Direct dialing from Cayman to the U.S. is now available by simply dialing 01 + area code + telephone number.

From the U.S. you can direct dial any number in the Cayman Islands. The procedure is simple. You first dial 809 (the area code for the Caribbean), then dial 94 (the routing code) and then dial the local Cayman five digit phone number. For example, to call Spanish Cove direct you would dial 1 (809) 949-3765.

GRAND CAYMAN

Grand Cayman is by far the largest and best developed island for divers. More than 95 percent of all divers visiting the Cayman Islands end up on Grand Cayman. It has the largest number of hotels, dive shops, dive boats, photo centers and other services sought by divers. Most important, Grand Cayman offers ample opportunities for spectacular diving and exciting marine life encounters.

If you were to attempt to sum up Grand Cayman in one word, it would be "variety." This island offers an impressive array

of choices in accommodations, meals and diving services. You can stay at an ultra-modern full service dive resort, an all-sports beach hotel, a low budget dive hotel or a sumptuous \$250,000 condominium. The choice is up to you and depends largely on your personal tastes, desired services and budget limitations.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of Grand Cayman is the Americanization of this British Colony. Everywhere you look there are signs of prosperity, growth and hometown touches. Just outside George Town is a brand new Burger King, right on the water's edge, with a beautiful view of the harbor. There is also a Kentucky Fried Chicken, a McDonald's and even a Haagen-Dazs ice cream parlor. For dinner, you can sample an excellent Caribbean dish of broiled grouper, peas and rice or go out for a pizza.

As for diving services, Grand Cayman excels in both variety and quality. At present there are 22 dive operations on the island and a fleet of 40 dive boats. One of the diving operators jokingly pointed out that Cayman now has the third largest "navy" in the Caribbean. There is even talk of acquiring a couple of submarines!

LOCAL CAYMAN NUMBERS

HOTELS & CONDOS

Grand Cayman	
Ambassadors Inn	9-5515
Beach Club Colony	9-2023
Caribbean Club	7-4099
Cayman Diving Lodge	7-7555
Cayman Islander	9-5528
Cayman Kai Resort	7-9556
Coral Caymanian	9-4054
Holiday Inn	7-4444
Le Club Cayman	7-4000
London House	7-4060
Paradise Manor	9-5677
Royal Palms Hotel	9-2636
Seaview Hotel	9-4990
South Cove	9-2514
Spanish Bay Villas	9-3272
Spanish Cove	9-3765
Sunset House	9-5966
Tortuga Club	7-7551
Cayman Brac	
Brac Reef Hotel	8-7323
Buccaneer's Inn	8-7257
Tiara Beach Hotel	8-7313

Little Cayman	
Kingston Bight Lodge	8-3244
Pirates Point	7-4324
Southern Cross Club	None

RENTAL CARS/GRAND CAYMAN

Ace-Hertz Rent-a-Car	9-2280
Cico-Avis Rent-a-Car	9-2468
Budget Rent-a-Car	9-5605
Coconut Car Rental	9-4037
Dollar Rent-a-Car	9-2981
Holiday Payless	9-7074
National Car Rental	9-4790
Savers Rent-A-Car	9-5772
Thrifty Rent-A-Car	7-2094

DIVE OPERATORS

Grand Cayman	
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd.	
Cayman Islander	9-5533
Holiday Inn	7-4444
Lobster Pot	9-2022
London House	7-4060
Scuba Center	9-2483
Calypso Divers	9-5474
Cayman Diving Lodge	7-7555
Cayman Kai Resort	7-9556
Clint Ebanks' Scuba	9-3873
Don Foster's Dive Cayman	9-5679
Eden Rock Diving Center	9-7243
F.L.A.G. U/W Services	9-2606
Fisheye Photographic	7-4209
M/V Cayman Diver	9-2007
Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman	7-4341
Quabbin Dives (Cayman)	9-5597
Seasports Limited	9-3965
South Cove	9-2514
Spanish Cove	9-3765
Sunset Divers	9-5966
Surfside Watersports	7-4224
Tortuga Club	7-7551

Cayman Brac	
Brac Aquatics	8-7429

Little Cayman	
Pirates Point	7-4324
Southern Cross Club	None

RENTAL MOTORCYCLES/GRAND CAYMAN

Honda-Caribbean Motors	9-4051
Yamaha-Cayman Cycles	7-4021

WHERE TO STAY

Grand Cayman has 15 different hotels and approximately 25 condominiums which cater to visitors. The differences between a hotel and a condominium are: the extent of services available; the capacity of the room or suite; and the pricing of the accommodations.

Grand Cayman hotels offer a wide variety of guest services including; meals, watersports, cocktail lounge, entertainment and so on. Condominiums are basically efficiency apartments with their own kitchen facilities. Guests are on their own as far as transportation, meals, entertainment and activities. At the hotels, guests are charged for rooms on a per guest basis while condominiums are rented by the apartment and guests split the cost among themselves. There is obviously a trade-off between the cost and services and the choice depends upon the visiting diver's individual needs and the limits of his/her budget.

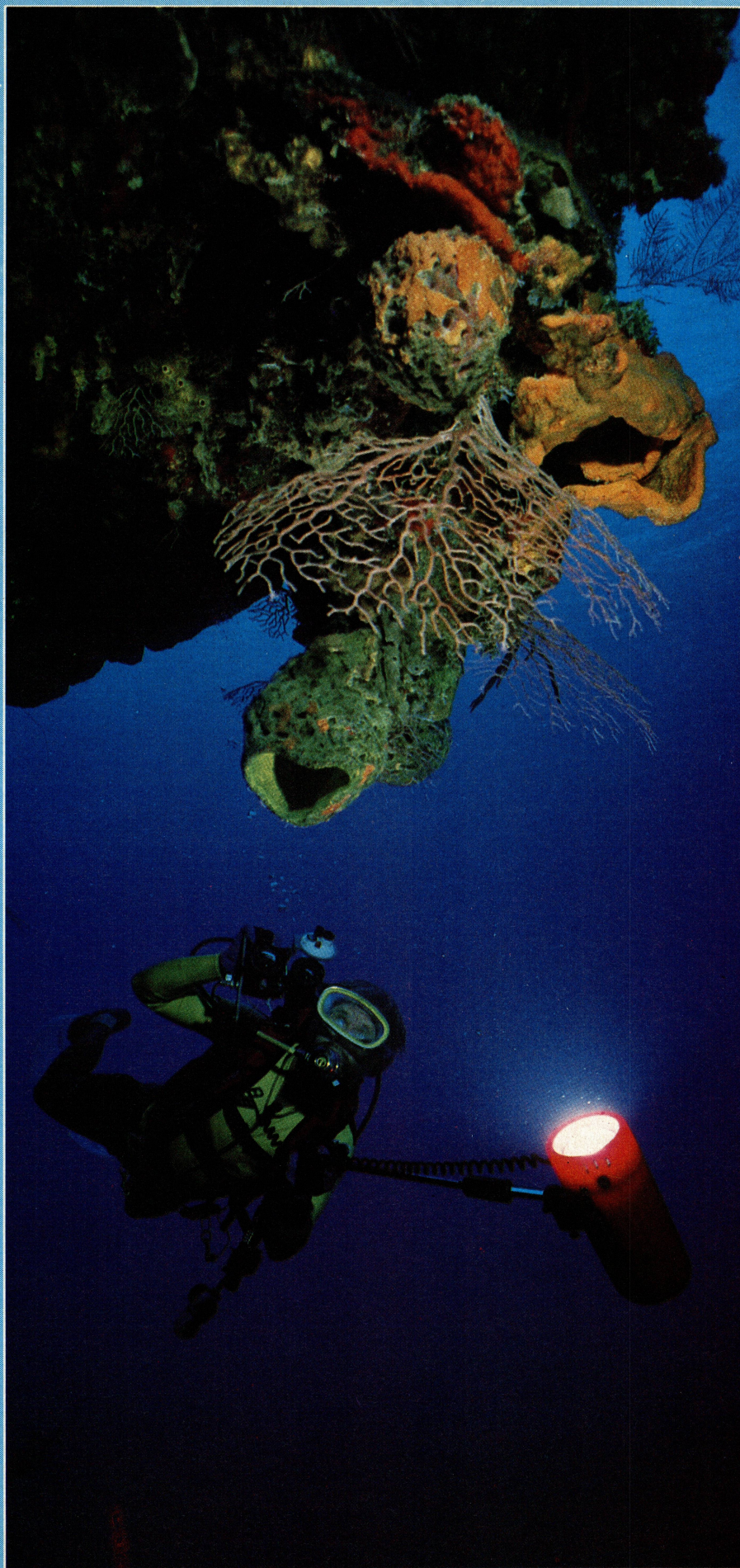
Ninety percent of Grand Cayman's hotels and condos are at the western end of the island, near the main city of George Town and the majority of restaurants. The west side of the island is in the lee of the normal trade winds and thus offers the calmest waters and the most inviting dive conditions. It is also the location of Cayman's famous Seven Mile Beach, the heart of most of the island's watersports.

Grand Cayman hotels span the entire spectrum of resort facilities ranging from modest guest lodges to luxurious beachfront hotels. The largest concentration of facilities is on hotel row along Seven Mile Beach. Here you will find five beachfront hotels including; Beach Club Colony, Coral Caymanian, LeClub Cayman, Holiday Inn and the Royal Palms Hotel. All five of these hotels are right on the beach and are perfectly suited for sunbathing, swimming, sailing, snorkeling and of course, scuba. Many of the dive boats pull right up on the beach, in front of these hotels, to pick up their passengers.

Also on the same Seven Mile Beach are many luxurious condos such as London House, Plantana, Villas of the Galleon, Plantation Village, and others. These condo units are available for rent on a daily or weekly basis and arrangements can be made through dive shop operators or booking agencies representing various condos.

In the same area but on the other side of the highway is the Cayman Islander, a modern, commercial style motel. While it does not have a beach or activities, it does feature a swimming pool, poolside bar and coffee shop. The hotel does provide access to Seven Mile Beach and Bob Soto's Diving Limited transports guests to the dive boats and Soto Dive Centers on a daily basis.

North of Seven Mile Beach, beyond West Bay Village is the very lovely Spanish Cove, a luxurious full service dive resort. This facility is on the north side, just around the corner from Seven Mile



Big Tunnel



Beach and very close to the North Wall. This unique resort features a sandy beach, swimming pool, two cocktail lounges, a full service dive shop and mini-marina for the dive boats. Spanish Cove (formerly Spanish Bay Resort) has been completely rebuilt and expanded into one of most progressive and beautiful full-service dive resorts in the Caribbean. It features an ultra-modern U/W photo

center complete with color film processing, camera rentals, photo instruction and complete Sony video facilities.

Adjacent to Spanish Cove is a lovely condominium complex, known as Spanish Bay Villas, which also caters to divers. Guests utilize the dive services of Spanish Cove and dine there as well.

South of Seven Mile Beach and George Town, but still on the west side of the island, are three additional shorefront hotels which cater to divers. All three are at the water's edge but have ironshore (weathered coral) instead of sandy beaches. The lack of beaches is not a major concern for visitors, as much of the diving is conducted from boats. There is

also excellent shallow reef diving available out in front of these resorts, and shore diving becomes an added benefit for supplementary scuba dives. The three hotels in this area are South Cove, Sunset House and Seaview Hotel. Both South Cove (formerly Casa Bertmar) and Sunset House are full service scuba resorts complete with dive shops and boats on the premises. South Cove is under the same ownership as Spanish Cove and hotel guests have an opportunity to utilize the diving services at both facilities.

On the north coast of Grand Cayman, ten miles from town, is Cayman Kai, a country club style resort which features a full line of watersports including a complete dive shop. Cayman Kai offers excellent access to many spectacular sites along the North Wall and is a large, self-sufficient resort.

There are two more beachfront hotels at the East End of Grand Cayman, a 45 to 60 minute drive from George Town. A visit to East End is much like a trip to another world. It is remote, undeveloped, tranquil and almost virgin. It offers the same type of island environment that one might experience on distant Little Cayman. If you want to get away from it all, this is the place to go.

The Tortuga Club is a small, cozy, beach hotel at the northeast corner of the island. Often promoted as a honeymoon hideaway, this facility specializes in total relaxation. In addition to sunbathing, swimming and beachcombing, the resort has a small dive shop and a boat.

The Cayman Diving Lodge is at the southeast corner of the island, adjacent to the small village of Gun Bay. This facility is a true diver's lodge with economy style accommodations, full service dive shop, underwater photographic facilities and one dive boat.

RESTAURANTS

Considering the size and population of this Caribbean island, Grand Cayman offers an amazing variety of restaurants. Contained in this Special Travel Section is a listing of 21 different establishments, indicating phone numbers, locations, business hours and credit card acceptance. You could dine at a different place every meal during your stay.

The restaurants on Grand Cayman can be pretty well divided into three basic categories: elegant dining, informal restaurants and fast food.

For elegant dining you may want to consider the Chez Jacques Gourmet Restaurant (at the Holiday Inn), the Caribbean Club, Grand Old House, Spanish Cove or the Yorkshire Pudding. Here, you will find fine linen, china and silverware. The cuisine includes top grade steaks, prime rib and fresh fish.

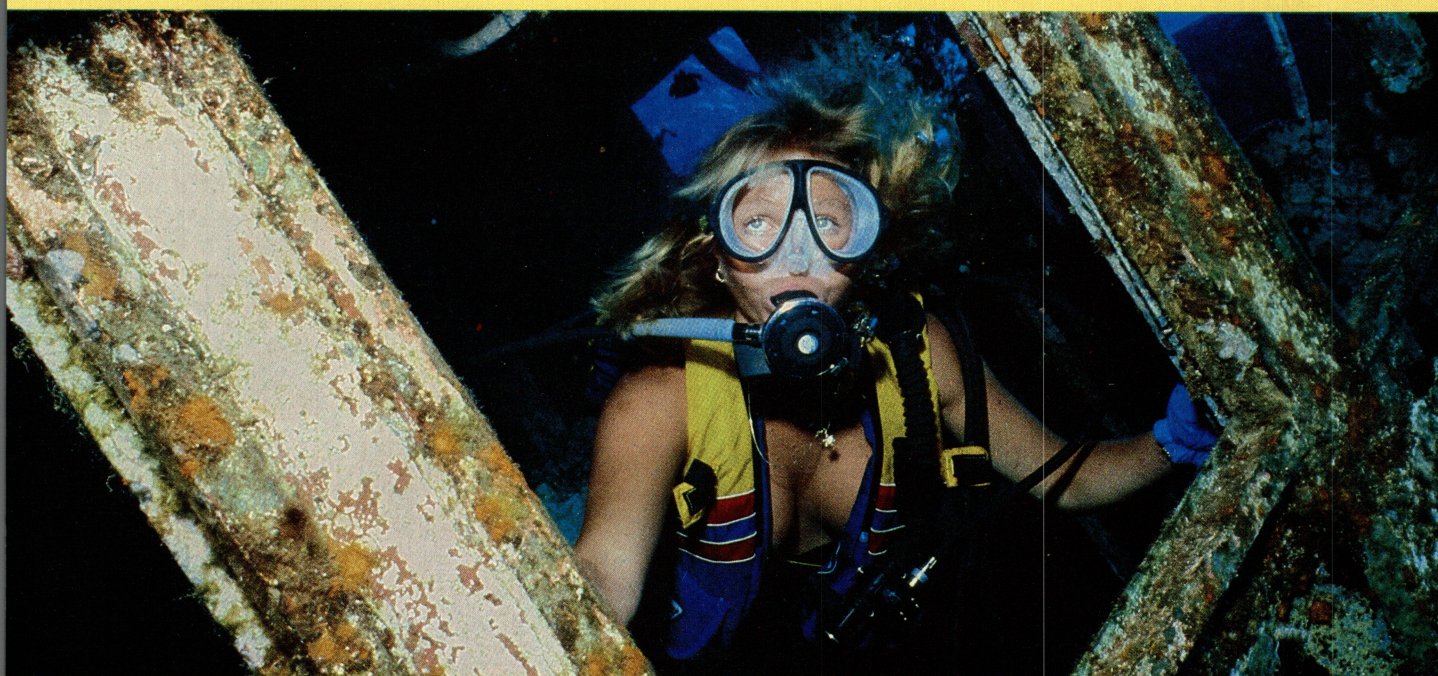
For a more casual dining experience you may want to try The Almond Tree, Lobster Pot, Sunset House, Royal Palms, Seaview or the Periwinkle. If you like Ital-

GRAND CAYMAN DINING GUIDE

Restaurant	Phone	Location	Hours	Days/Week	Credit Cards
Almond Tree	9-2893	N. Church Street	12:00 pm- 2:30 pm 6:30 pm-10:00 pm	Mon.-Fri. Mon.-Sun.	Visa Card MasterCard
Burger King	9-6377	N. Church Street	7:00 am-12:00 am 7:00 am- 2:00 am	Sun.-Thur. Fri.-Sat.	None
Caribbean Club	7-4099	West Bay Road	7:30 am- 9:30 am 12:00 pm- 2:30 pm 7:00 pm- 9:30 pm	Daily Daily Daily	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Cayman Arms	9-2661	George Town	11:00 am- 2:30 pm 6:00 pm-10:00 pm	Mon.-Sat. Daily	None
Chez Jacques	7-4444	Holiday Inn	6:30 pm-10:00 pm	Daily	American Express Diner's Club MasterCard Visa Card
Coconut Place Deli	7-4742	West Bay Road	9:00 am- 6:00 pm	Mon.-Sat.	None
Cracked Conch	9-5717	Selkirk Plaza	11:30 am- 5:30 pm 6:30 pm-10:00 pm	Mon.-Sat. Mon.-Sat.	None
DJ's Cafe	7-4234	Coconut Place	6:30 pm-10:00 pm	Daily	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Fort Restaurant	9-5747	George Town	8:00 am- 4:00 pm 6:00 pm-10:30 pm	Mon.-Sat. Mon.-Sat.	None
Grand Old House	9-2020	S. Church Street	6:00 pm-10:30 pm	Mon.-Sat.	None
Kentucky Fried Chicken	9-2834	George Town	11:00 am-10:00 pm 11:00 am-12:00 am	Sun.-Thur. Fri.-Sat.	None
Lobster Pot Restaurant	9-2736	George Town	12:00 pm- 2:00 pm 6:30 pm- 9:30 pm	Mon.-Sat. Mon.-Sat.	None
Pagoda Restaurant	9-5475	West Bay Road	12:00 pm- 1:30 pm 6:00 pm-10:00 pm	Tue.-Fri. Tue.-Sun.	American Express Diner's Club MasterCard Visa Card
Periwinkle Restaurant	9-2927	West Bay Road	6:00 pm-10:30 pm	Daily	MasterCard Visa Card
Ports of Call	9-2231	West Bay Road	11:30 am- 2:00 pm 6:00 pm-10:00 pm	Daily Daily	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Royal Palms	9-2636	West Bay Road	7:30 am-10:00 am 12:00 pm- 2:00 pm 6:30 pm- 9:00 pm	Daily Daily Daily	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Sea View Restaurant	9-4990	S. Church Street	7:00 pm- 9:30 pm	Tue.-Sun.	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Spanish Cove	9-3765	West Bay	7:30 am- 9:30 am 12:00 pm- 2:30 pm 6:30 pm- 9:30 pm	Daily Daily Daily	American Express MasterCard Visa Card
Sunset House	9-5966	S. Church Street	7:30 am- 9:30 am 12:00 pm- 2:30 pm 7:30 pm- 8:30 pm	Daily Daily Daily	American Express Diner's Club MasterCard Visa Card
Veranda Room	7-4444	Holiday Inn	7:00 am-11:00 am 11:45 am- 2:30 pm 5:00 pm-10:00 pm	Daily Daily Daily	American Express Diner's Club MasterCard Visa Card
Yorkshire Pudding	9-5575	West Bay Road	7:00 pm- 9:00 pm	Thur.-Tue.	American Express

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surfing, sailing, bicycling, deep sea
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ian food, DJ's Cafe has great lasagna. If you desire Chinese cooking, give the Pagoda Restaurant a try.

Popular spots for lunch include such places as: the Cayman Arms, Cracked Conch, The Fort and Ports of Call. Breakfast favorites include the Veranda Room (Holiday Inn), The Fort and Burger King.

For fast food, you have your choice of Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's or the Coconut Deli. The Coconut Deli makes especially good (and fresh) submarine sandwiches with ham, roast beef or salami. And, just a few doors away from the Deli is the Haagen Dazs Ice Cream Parlor.

One word of caution, it would be wise to make restaurant reservations in

advance by phone. During the busy season, many of these restaurants are booked solid in the evenings.

ENTERTAINMENT

Grand Cayman is not exactly a sleepy little island that rolls up its sidewalks at 9:00 pm. In fact, it is quite the opposite. After dinner one can usually find a number of establishments which offer lively evening entertainment. The best known spot on the island is the Wreck of the Ten Sails Lounge, off the lobby of the Holiday Inn. Here you will find Barefoot Man and his band performing nightly. Barefoot is an extremely talented songwriter, singer and musician who has already produced a half-dozen record albums, including two composed of scuba diving songs. In addition to his dive ballads, Barefoot sings calypso, country/western and rock and roll. The performance is worth the admission price.

For a little quieter evening, you may want to stop in at The Almond Tree and

listen to owner, Lenny Loyd, play the guitar and sing folksongs. Upon your arrival in Grand Cayman, a quick check of the local newspaper or Tourist Weekly magazine will indicate what is happening around town.

SIGHTSEEING

For those who do not dive, or those who want to take a break, Grand Cayman offers several land attractions worth visiting. There is the Turtle Farm at the north end of Seven Mile Beach where visitors can view the feeding of turtle hatchlings and examine a wide selection of products made from turtle shell. If you rent a car you may be interested in touring Grand Cayman's countryside and visiting such spots as Pedro's Castle, the blowhole at East End and other hotel resorts on the island. However, the major attraction of Grand Cayman is George Town, a busy seaport town filled with curio and handicraft shops, jewelry stores and banks. There is enough in George Town to keep



a visitor busy for several afternoons.

SHOPPING

Grand Cayman's freeport shopping opportunities are quite unique. You will find many items here which are simply unobtainable in other parts of the Caribbean. For example, Grand Cayman artisans excel in the making of black coral jewelry. There are at least one dozen stores which offer a wide selection of hand-crafted products. You can purchase anything from a simple coral pendant to a complete collection of silverware with individually carved black coral handles. Some of the more elaborate pieces of jewelry include black coral and rare gems in gold settings.

Other unique shopping opportunities include; Wedgewood china, handblown glass statues from Italy, beautifully cut crystal from all parts of Europe and delicate porcelain statues. There is also the usual selection of expensive perfumes, fine liquors, cameras, watches and elec-

tronic equipment. All of these items are offered at very attractive prices.

DIVE OPERATORS

Grand Cayman has four types of dive operators: 1) resort hotels with their own dive services; 2) resort hotels with dive operator concessions; 3) independent operators serving guests from any hotel or condominiums; 4) operators who don't fit any of the other categories.

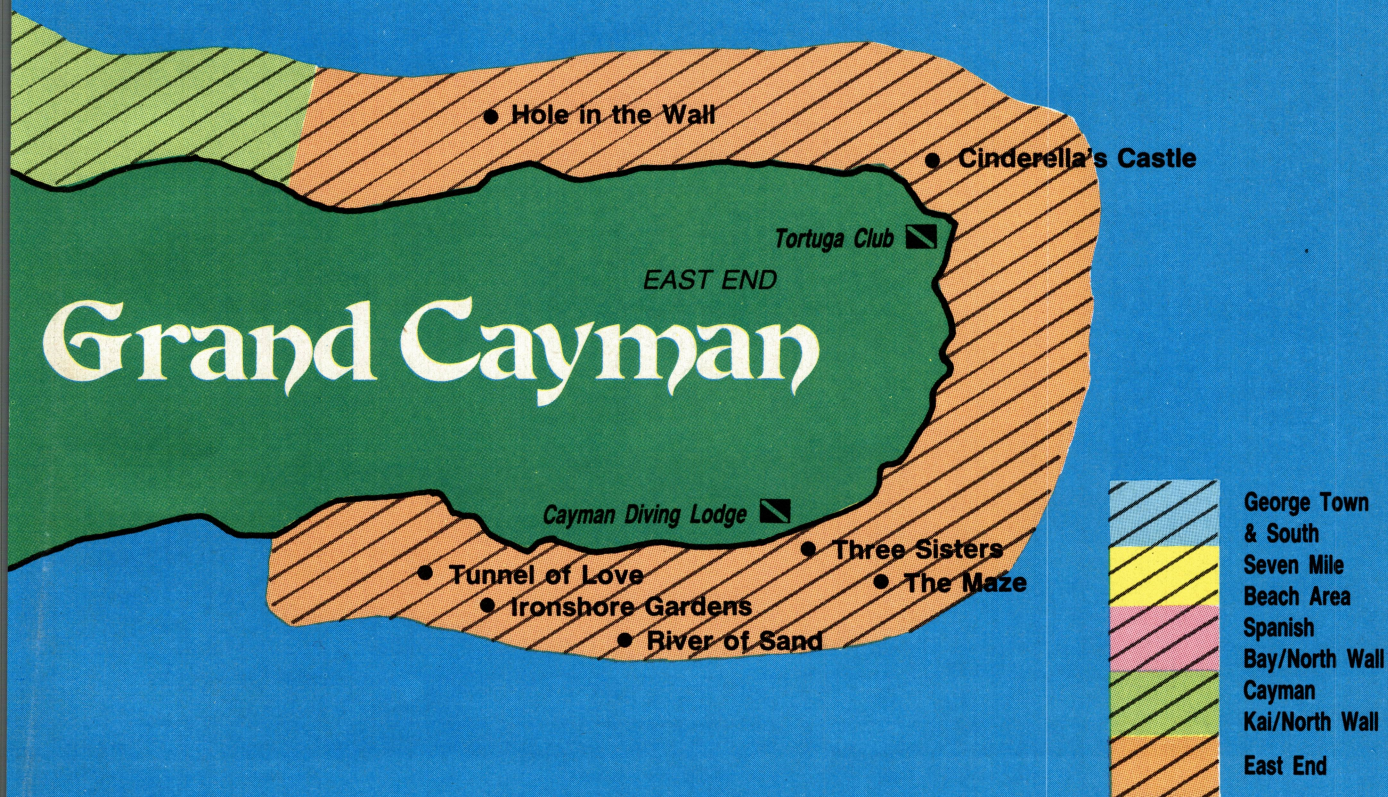
Of the 22 dive operations on Grand Cayman, six are hotel owned and operated. These include: South Cove, Cayman Kai, Cayman Diving Lodge, Spanish Cove, Sunset House and Tortuga Club. These operations are right on the hotel property and designed to specifically serve guests at these hotels. However, they will accommodate guests from other hotels and condos on a space available basis. All six are full service facilities which include dive shops, air fill stations, boats, underwater guides and so on.

An additional five hotels have fran-

chised dive concessions on their properties. These include: the two Bob Soto diving centers at the Holiday Inn and the Cayman Islander; Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman Ltd. which serves the Royal Palms Hotel/Coral Caymanian; and Surfside Water Sports at LeClub Cayman (formerly Galleon Beach). Again, these particular dive operations are designed to accommodate guests staying at these respective hotels, but they are not necessarily limited to guests only. Quite often, there are additional customers from other hotels and condominiums. Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. also has a dive center at the London House, a condominium on Seven Mile Beach.

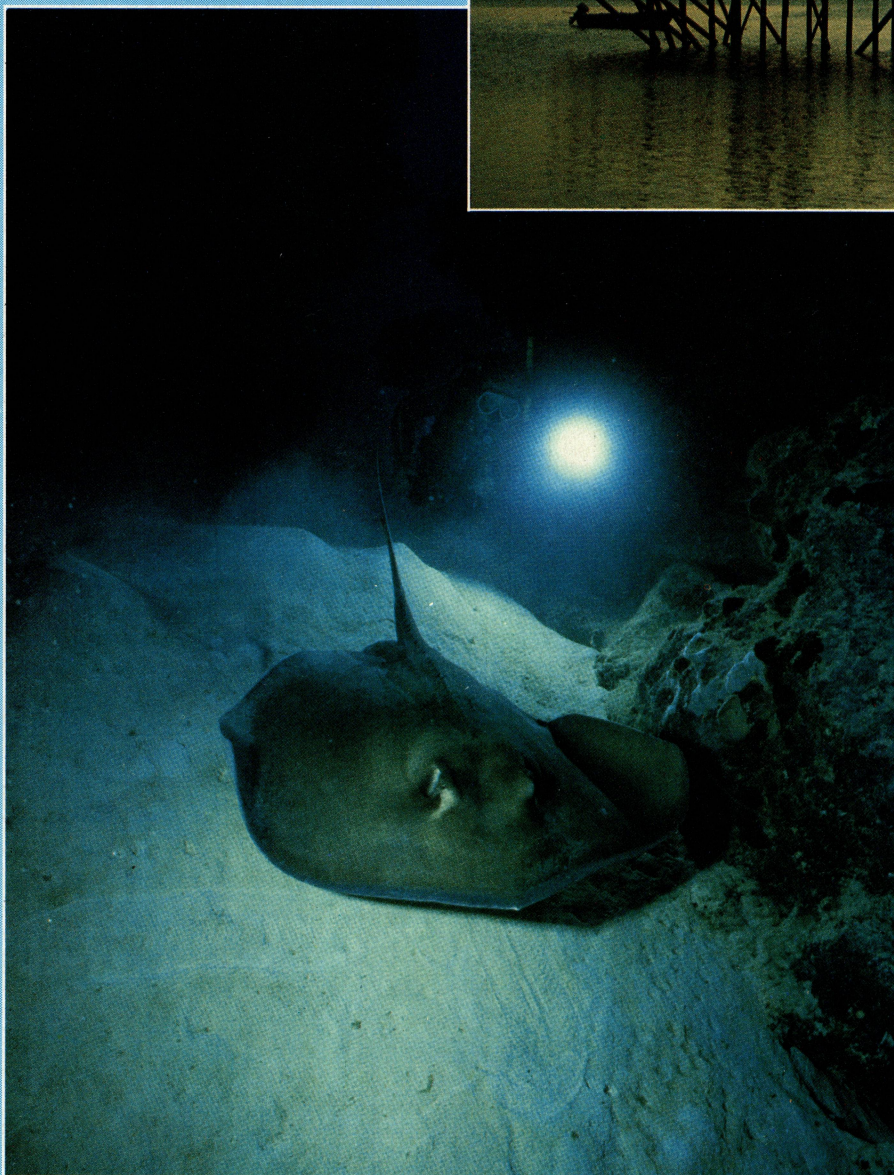
At present there are six independent dive operators who are not at any hotel but instead serve customers from just about any hotel, condominium, private residence or visiting yacht. These facilities include: the Bob Soto's Scuba Center, Calypso Divers, Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman, Quabbin Dives (Cayman), Clin-

SDM's Guide To Cayman Dive Sites





Sunset at the Tiara Beach Hotel pier.

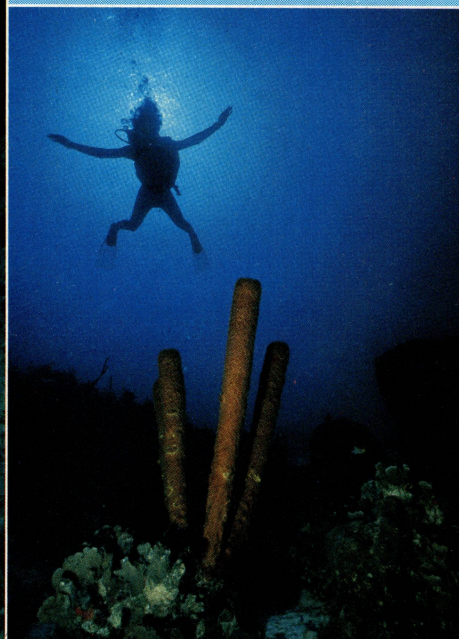


Valley of the Rays.

ton Ebanks' Scuba Cayman and Sea-sports. Most of these pick up their customers right off Seven Mile Beach.

The four remaining specialty operators who do not fit any of the categories described so far include: F.L.A.G. Underwater Services which is basically a dive shop on Mary Street in the middle of George Town. This operation rents scuba gear, provides customers with a dive map and encourages beach diving. F.L.A.G. has no boat. Fisheye Photographic Services is a full service independent U/W photo center which oper-

ates two dive boats, specifically for photo classes and specialty photo dives. Fisheye rents photo gear, processes film and conducts classes daily. The M/V *Cayman Diver* is a live-aboard boat which makes a one week cruise to many of the more remote dive locations around Grand Cayman. The *Cayman Diver* can accommodate up to 12 divers and has its own tanks and compressor. Eden Rock Diving Center is a dive shop and air station at the water's edge just south of George Town. This facility rents gear and encourages shore diving right from the



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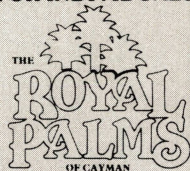
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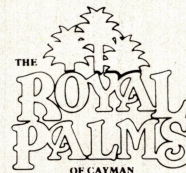
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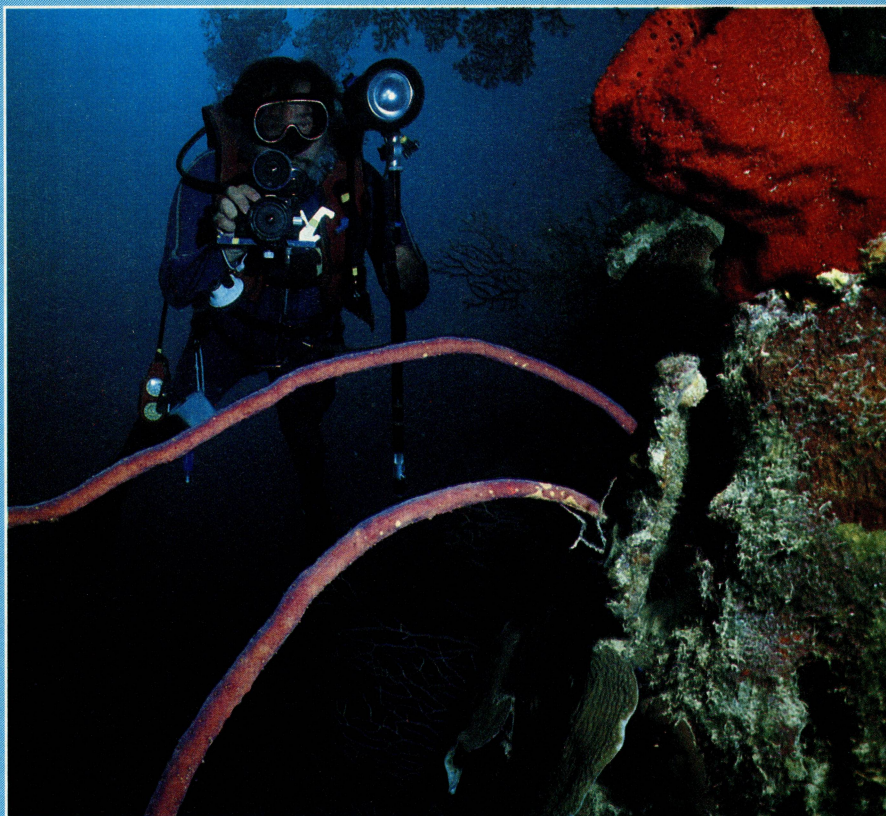
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shop's doorstep.

Which dive operator is best? The answer depends on your personal preferences, diving style, underwater interests and budget limitations. For example, if you are looking for the best deal an attractively priced dive package from a single operator would be your best choice. On the other hand, you may want to buy your diving on an *a la carte* basis if you desire a great deal of variety and want to try a number of different dive operations.

If you like to dive in small groups, you may want to select an independent operator who utilizes a small boat with limited guest capacity. On the other hand, the small boats are frequently booked up well in advance and so a large dive boat operator might be a better choice for last minute dive plans.

Some dive operations specialize in certain underwater activities. For example, Spanish Cove, Fisheye Photographic and South Cove specialize in underwater photographic excursions since they are



Josh's Canyon



Barracuda, South Cove.

fully equipped with film processing labs, camera rentals and underwater video. Cayman Kai dives the North Wall daily, weather permitting. South Cove conducts daily fish feeding demonstrations with moray eels, groupers and other creatures of the reef. Peter Milburn specializes in night diving trips on an almost daily basis. Bob Soto's Scuba Center, Eden Rock Diving Center, Sunset House, South Cove and Spanish Cove all offer high quality shore diving excursions to excellent coral reef gardens and grottoes.

The dive operators of Grand Cayman are perhaps the most progressive of any in the Caribbean islands. They have formed their own Watersports Association and continually strive to upgrade the safety standards and dive procedures aboard their boats. All Grand Cayman dive boats are equipped with VHF radios so they may maintain contact with each other, as well as with base stations at various dive centers on the island. The dive-masters and underwater guides are a mixture of Americans, Canadians, Britons and Caymanians—the majority are certified scuba instructors. In fact, most of the dive guides have received training in emergency medical procedures as well as operation of a recompression chamber for bends treatment. These people really know their business and do their jobs very well.

RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER

For the past ten years, the diving community of Grand Cayman has maintained and operated a two man, double-lock recompression chamber. It is at the Cayman Medical Clinic under the direction of Dr. James St. C. Polson.

This chamber is a special community service project developed by Cayman Island Divers, a local chapter of the British Sub-Aqua Club. At present, the chamber is staffed by 27 qualified operators who offer their volunteer services on a 24 hour basis. During its ten years of operation, Grand Cayman has treated 76 cases, many of them flown in from other islands in the Caribbean.

DIVE BOATS

The dive boats at Grand Cayman can be divided into three distinct categories; 1) the drop-ramp dive barges; 2) the flat-top pontoon boats; and 3) the high speed monohulls. Each of these is designed for a special type of environment and each has its specific use. All three designs are expensively customized and make diving a pleasure.

The drop-ramp dive barges are unique to Grand Cayman and will not be found anywhere else in the Caribbean. These dive boats have been designed and built right on the island and serve a unique purpose. They range in size from 36 to 50 feet and there is one which is actually a double-decker. The Grand Cayman dive barges have been designed for the ulti-

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mate in dive boat entry and exit. These craft can be driven onto Seven Mile Beach for loading scuba gear and passengers. The fronts are equipped with large ramps that are lowered onto the beach: Guests simply walk out onto the vessel. The ramp is raised when the boat is underway and lowered into the water when the boat is anchored at the dive site. To enter the water, divers simply walk off the ramp; they swim back onto it when exiting the water.

Flattop dive boats are used extensively in Grand Cayman as the west side of the island is blessed with flat, calm water on a year-round basis. These craft offer a tremendous amount of deck space, a stable platform and a little more speed than the dive barges. With the flattops, dive operators are able to travel faster and farther, giving them a wider range of wall dive locations. The dive boats range in size from 28 to 34 feet and can accommodate up to 16 divers.

The monohull dive boats currently in use by Grand Cayman dive operators are vessels specifically customized for scuba diving. These craft move fast and can handle choppy seas when the occasion arises. With the monohull boat, operators can reach some of the more spectacular wall dives along the North Wall, the South Sound and the East End. All of the monohulls are equipped with specially designed dive ladders, tank racks and scuba gear storage areas.

M/V CAYMAN DIVER

At present, Grand Cayman has one live-aboard dive boat which conducts one week cruises around the island to some of Cayman's finest reefs. The *M/V Cayman Diver* is a converted 83 foot Coast Guard vessel which has been customized for scuba diving. She is twin diesel powered, has accommodations for 12 divers, two air compressors and enough scuba tanks for everyone. The *Cayman Diver* is an ideal choice for the hardcore diver who wants to maximize his or her bottom time and make as many dives per day as possible.

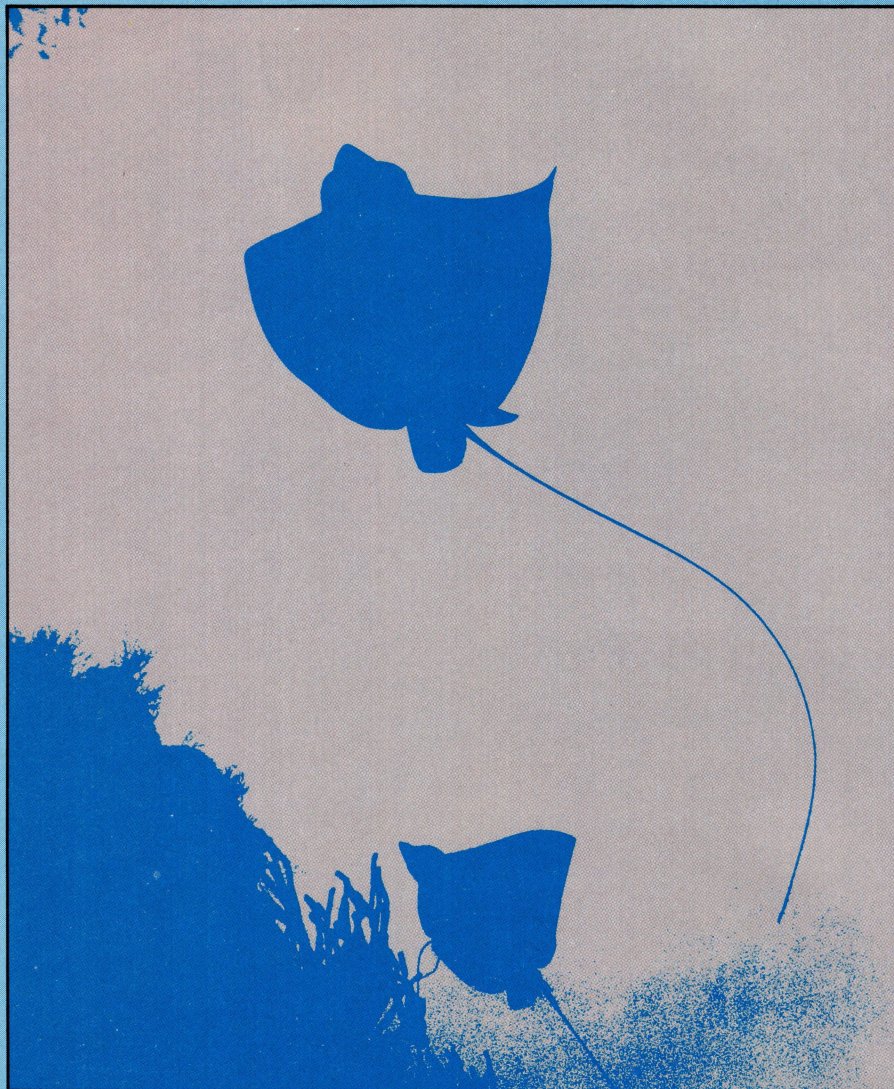
The *Cayman Diver* has been in operation for more than a decade and has a distinguished record of good service. The ship is skippered by Jerry Jones, a very experienced diver who has traveled much of the world and is an avid underwater photographer.

Guests board the *Cayman Diver* late Saturday afternoon at George Town Harbour. They spend Sunday through Friday cruising along the drop-offs on the west side, north side and south side of Grand Cayman. The choice of routes is depend-

ent upon the trade winds as Captain Jones strives to make every voyage as comfortable and as enjoyable as possible. The *Cayman Diver* generally anchors in a protected cove each evening while a fine meal is being served. When weather allows, the *Cayman Diver* will make a two day excursion from Grand Cayman to Bloody Bay Wall at Little Cayman.

U/W PHOTO SERVICES

Underwater photographic services on Grand Cayman seem to have exploded overnight. It has become big business and there is a wide array of different services and facilities available to the visiting underwater photographer or person interested in learning to take underwater pictures. Grand Cayman is one of the few is-



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lands in the Caribbean where a photo diver can purchase just about any lens, part or piece for his favorite underwater camera system. In addition, underwater photographers are more than welcome aboard Grand Cayman dive boats. A visitor can purchase or rent underwater cameras and strobes, have film processed overnight or take an underwater photo course in one of several locations. There are several stores in which visiting photographers can purchase equipment or obtain help.

Fisheye Photographic Services is the newest addition to Grand Cayman's photo facilities. Owned and operated by Martin Sutton and Ahuva Zaid, this store is a complete underwater photography facility which offers camera equipment rentals, sales and photo trips. There are two 26 foot flattop boats (the *F/Stop* and the *F/Stop II*) on which photo classes are conducted. Special services include four hour film processing and camera repairs. The store is at the Trafalgar Place Mini Mall toward the north end of the Seven Mile Beach area. The telephone number is 7-4209.

Undersea Photo Supply of Cayman is a combination dive shop and camera store. Owned and operated by Ron and Barbara Meiselman, this little store is probably the best stocked dive shop in the Caribbean. Here you will find all of those little parts, accessories and specialty items that never seem obtainable back home. The store also stocks a full line of underwater photographic products including Nikon, Fuji, Cosina, Minolta, Ikelite, Oceanic, Subsea and so on. The shop also offers 24 hour film processing, sells color prints and underwater color slide sets. The store is at Selkirk Plaza in the Seven Mile Beach area. The Cayman telephone number is 9-4686.

Spanish Cove Photo Center is a brand new ultra-modern underwater photo center at Spanish Cove Resort. Operated by photo pro Jerry Schnabel, this magnificent facility offers an impressive selection of services including custom E-6 color film processing, color prints from slides, an excellent selection of photo equipment for sale, underwater camera equipment rentals and weekly slide shows. The center conducts a variety of training courses including a one-day photo class in macro or wide-angle, a two day combined macro/wide-angle course, individual photo coaching, and underwater video classes.

South Cove Photo Center is a newly built underwater photographic facility at South Cove Resort. While this facility is a little more modest than Spanish Cove, the services are similar. Resident photo pro Anne Davis teaches underwater photo classes and conducts daily photo dives. A special feature of South Cove is having your picture taken underwater with Waldo, a pet six foot long green moray eel.

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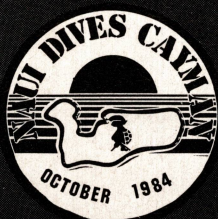
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centration of catalogued dive sites of any island in the Caribbean. There are literally hundreds of different dive locations which have been discovered, charted and described. In fact, several books have been written on the subject. And, names like Trinity Caves and Big Tunnel have almost become household words among traveling divers.

Many of the best dive sites are off the west side of Grand Cayman, straight out from Seven Mile Beach. It is no accident Cayman's greatest concentration of hotels is directly adjacent to its greatest concentration of good dive spots. The typical boat trip takes 5 to 15 minutes from beach to dive site and many wall dives are within 100 to 200 yards of each other. However, the Cayman dive operators are not necessarily limited to the sites of Seven Mile Beach. If weather conditions are right, they will frequently motor around the point and visit some of the spectacular walls on either the north or south side of the island.

One would think that all wall dives are pretty much the same, but this is not true for Cayman. Wall diving here offers an infinite number of variations in both the profile of the drop-offs and type of marine life. There are great canyons, narrow crevices, undercut walls, massive pinnacles and all types of tunnels, chimneys and caverns. Wall diving is but one facet of Cayman's treasures. The medium depth coral reefs can be exquisite and the abundance of marine life is exciting. There are also several very exciting shipwrecks, quite a number of coral tunnel labyrinths and miles of shallow coral reefs for snorkeling. There are special sites for night diving and many spots where shore diving is safe and convenient. The opportunities for coral reef exploration are virtually endless and that is why many divers return to Grand Cayman year after year.

The diving around Grand Cayman can be basically divided into five separate geographic areas. Each of these is adjacent to a certain group of hotels and dive operators which can provide convenient and quick accessibility. However, accessibility is not limited to only the hotels and operators in the area. There are times of the year when the wind shifts and dive operators must relocate their boats for more favorable diving conditions on the calm side of the island.

Beginning with the Seven Mile Beach area and moving counterclockwise around the island, the five geographic diving areas are as follows:

- 1) Seven Mile Beach area
- 2) George Town and South
- 3) East End
- 4) Cayman Kai/North Wall



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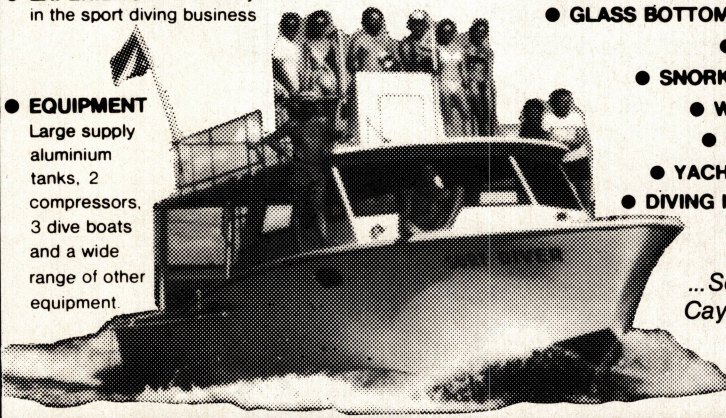
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5) Spanish Bay/North Wall

The following is a brief synopsis of the underwater attractions which can be found in each of these.

SEVEN MILE BEACH AREA

The north end of Seven Mile Beach has become increasingly popular over the past few years and most all of the dive operators run daily trips to this area. One of the favorites is **Sentinel Rock**, an extremely photogenic drop-off with a high coral rampart, lovely tube sponges and giant gorgonian fans.

Slightly east of Sentinel Rock is **Orange Canyon**, so named because of its brilliant array of colorful orange elephant ear sponge formations. The best diving here is at 75 to 80 feet. Sitting in the center of a split canyon is a very large coral head that comes up to 50 feet. The top is shaped like a mushroom and about 75 feet in diameter. Depth at the base is 100 feet. The canyon on the south side of the head is lined with orange elephant ear sponge formations, stretching for a distance of 60 feet and rising up almost 40 feet from the canyon floor. Growing among the orange sponges is a forest of black gorgonian fans, making it an ideal dive spot for the U/W photographer.

One of the most impressive drop-offs in Grand Cayman is a dive site known as **Big Tunnel**. About 250 yards from Orange Canyon, this is one dive that every visitor to Cayman should make. Big Tunnel features a giant coral archway, the top of which is at 105 feet; the bottom, at 120 feet. While there are many smaller tunnels, crevices and overhangs, the real thrill of this dive is to dive the archway. The interior of it is beautifully adorned with all types of colorful sponge formations and a row of black gorgonian fans lines the outer rim of the archway. Some of these fans are four feet tall. Visibility at Big Tunnel frequently exceeds 125 feet, and sometimes reaches 175 feet.

Trinity Caves is as famous as Big Tunnel, and certainly just as impressive. Trinity Caves is a vertical drop-off where four separate coral tunnels converge. There are two tunnels which run almost parallel to each other. They begin in approximately 60 feet and slope gradually downward to 100 feet where they exit together on the face of the wall. Slightly south of the twin tunnels is a shorter but more winding tunnel which also leads to the drop-off. The fourth tunnel is to the right of this exit.

Trinity Caves is also popular because of the black coral which grows along the walls and floor of the passageways and on the outside face of the drop-off. Also

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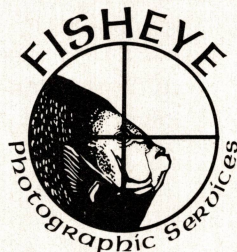
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along the outside face are giant basket sponges and barrel sponges.

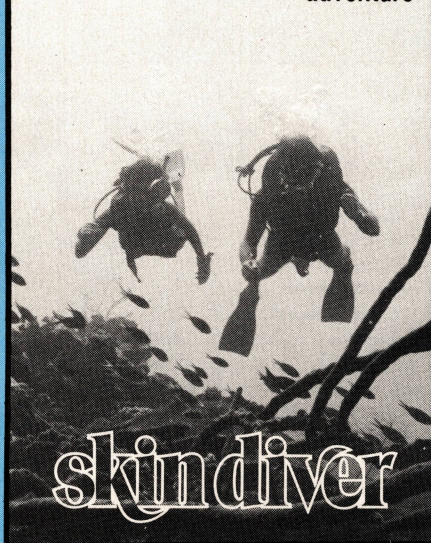
About one-half mile south of Trinity Caves is a dive site known as **Sand Chute**. The top of this dive starts in 60 feet of water where you discover a 300 foot wide river of sand that slopes on a gradual incline to the edge of the drop-off. The white sand slope looks like a snow ski run with mountains of coral formations bordering the sides. These formations are at least 100 feet long and rise up 60 feet with almost vertical sides.

The most unique feature of Sand Chute is the monstrous barrel sponge that grows out from the south wall at about 100 feet. This is one of the largest barrel sponges in the Caribbean, measuring nine feet tall by six feet in diameter. Its overall color is pinkish gray. Just above the big barrel is a slightly smaller basket sponge in 90 feet of water. It is about five feet tall and six feet in diameter. This dive also has many red sponges in the 100 to 130 foot area.

Spanish Anchor is a shallow dive, used as a second morning dive. The reef lies in 50 feet of water and was named for an old anchor (believed to be Spanish) embedded in the coral. This site also has a large coral mound which rises 15 feet off the bottom and provides shelter for various sized lobsters, cleaner shrimp and arrowcrabs. There are a lot of tame fish on this reef, including several spe-

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cies of angelfish.

Next door to Spanish Anchor is **Aquarium**, another shallow dive at about 45 to 50 feet deep. Once you've dived Aquarium you will be spoiled for the rest of the week, for the fish are so tame here you almost have to push them away from your facemask. The fish on this reef have been well cared for by visiting divers and are eagerly awaiting your gift of food. Handouts are gratefully accepted by queen angels, gray angles, hogfish, butterflyfish and sergeant majors.

Peter's Reef, just south of Aquarium, also features tame fish (they swim back and forth between the two reefs). This dive is also in about 50 feet of water. The bottom is sandy with parallel coral ridges running perpendicular to the beach. The most unique feature of this reef is a large stand of pillar coral.

The **Oro Verde** lies in 50 feet of water, about one-quarter mile off the beach of LeClub Cayman (formerly Galleon Beach Hotel). Deliberately sunk in 1980, this shipwreck has become one of the most popular dives in Cayman. The 184 foot ship lies on her starboard side, completely intact and has become a refuge for all types of marine life. There are schools of yellowtail snapper and sergeant majors swarm around divers brave enough to carry breakfast scraps. French angelfish and gray angelfish approach divers without fear.

Royal Palms Ledge lies off the Royal Palms Hotel in 35 to 55 feet of water. The top has tightly clustered coral heads providing protection for small fish. The underside of the ledge curves sharply back, going down to a sandy channel at 55 feet. The dive is best known for the abundance of tiny invertebrates that cling to the walls of the ledge.

GEORGE TOWN AND SOUTH

Soto's Reef is on the north side of George Town Harbour, directly off the Lobster Pot and Bob Soto's Diving Headquarters. This is a very shallow dive, 25 to 35 feet deep, with coral heads as shallow as six feet below the surface. It is perfect for snorkelers. For scuba divers this reef offers many tunnels and coral chambers to explore. The caves often contain small schools of baitfish. A late afternoon dive here creates a church-like atmosphere as sunlight streams through openings in the high, vaulted coral chambers.

The remains of the 375 foot **Balboa** are scattered over several acres of ocean bottom of George Town Harbour. Only 200 yards off the town pier, this site has played host to hundreds of thousands of divers over the past years. Sunk during a 1932 hurricane, this wreck has a good deal of marine life growing on it. This has attracted great numbers of fish, as well as divers. Depths range from 25 to 35 feet of water. The **Balboa** is a delight for beginning divers, wreck divers and underwater photographers. Its convenient loca-

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tion, shallow depth and abundance of creatures make it an extremely popular night dive.

Eden Rock is on the south side of George Town Harbour, directly out from the Eden Rock Diving Center. This dive site is only 140 feet from shore and is easily accessible for the snorkeler or diver. Eden Rock is a labyrinth of caves and tunnels ranging in depth from 15 to 35 feet. This site also makes an excellent night dive.

Devil's Grotto is just south of Eden Rock, separated from it by a sand gully. This reef is similar to Eden Rock but features a very long tunnel which opens into a large grotto.

Sunset Reef is directly in front of the Sunset House Resort and is divisible directly from shore. This shallow site is used in the afternoon by divers staying at the resort. It is good for macro photography and small fish.

South Cove Reef is directly out from South Cove (formerly Casa Bertmar). The depth here ranges from 30 to 50 feet and the area is loaded with coral formations, fans and sponges. This reef is best known for the resident six foot green moray eel, Waldo. Other tame fish include a giant jewfish, a large barracuda and several of Waldo's relatives.

Just south of South Cove is a rather interesting dive site named **Armchair**. In 60 to 70 feet of water is a giant, odd-shaped sponge contoured like a big overstuffed armchair, hence the name.

Eagle Ray Rock is a very beautiful wall dive on the corner of the southwest point on the western side. This location got its name because there were so many sightings of eagle rays in the area.

Pinnacle Rock is very unique spot, composed of a giant canyon and sand chute which spills over the edge of the wall at 120 feet. Rising straight from the center of the sand chute mouth is an immense coral pinnacle 40 feet in diameter and more than 90 feet tall. The pinnacle is completely covered with gorgonian fans, sponges and hard corals.

EAST END

One of the more popular dives of the East End is **Tunnel of Love**. It is west of the Cayman Diving Lodge. This reef features a long tunnel which runs from the top of the reef to the outer face of the wall. The tunnel starts at 60 feet and slopes downward to 125 feet where it exits on the vertical face of the drop-off.

River of Sand is another drop-off, near the Tunnel of Love. The top of the reef is at 45 feet, where a giant sand chute slants downward on a 45 degree angle and narrows into a funnel-shaped

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canyon only 10 feet wide at the 100 foot level. At this point it spills over a lip and out onto the vertical face of a drop-off.

Three Sisters is a favorite dive for the East End. These are three pinnacles not more than 50 yards apart, right on the edge of the drop-off that begins in 50 to 60 feet of water. They are about 70 feet in diameter and almost 90 feet tall. The pinnacles have bright red sponges growing on their sides.

The Maze is just east of the Cayman Diving Lodge and takes only five minutes to reach by boat. This site was named for its intricate series of intertwining coral canyons which are very narrow and fairly deep. Some of these are 60 to 80 feet tall, with vertical walls lined with black coral, sponges and gorgonians. Large animals are usually sighted here including turtles, sharks, stingrays and groupers. Visibility is usually good.

Lying directly off the Tortuga Club, **Cinderella's Castle** features many tunnels and ravines to wander through. Great stands of elkhorn coral provide underwater photographers with great angles. This dive area ranges in depth from 25 to 60 feet. The guides from the Tortuga Club have tamed the fish here—enjoy!

CAYMAN KAI/NORTH WALL

No Name Wall is straight out from Rum Point Channel, at the eastern end of North Sound. It is a favorite with divers staying at Cayman Kai Resort. The top of the drop-off begins at 55 feet with a sharply sloping wall. The upper edge is uniquely marked by a series of four parallel coral ravines. One of the main attractions of No Name Wall is an unusually large crimson sponge growing out from the face of the drop-off at 120 feet.

Grand Canyon is a breathtaking coral wall which almost defies description. Two giant coral ramparts jut outward from the vertical wall creating a chasm of clear blue water in between. It is about 150 feet from one rampart to the other and the rim of the wall curves sharply inward forming a U-shaped indentation. The tops of the two coral buttresses are at a depth of 70 feet and their sides form vertical walls that plunge straight down. This dive site is loaded with some of the biggest black coral trees on Grand Cayman.

Gale's Mountain is another favorite of Cayman Kai which was discovered by one of the divemasters at the resort. With-in swimming distance of Grand Canyon, this dive is worth a second look. Gale's Mountain is a miniature submarine mountain peak which sits right on the edge of the drop-off. It is approximately 250 feet across the base, flattened at the peak and rises to within 40 feet of the surface. There are often schools of small reef fish along the top of the peak.

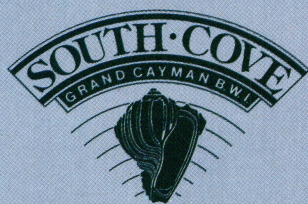
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sandy area adjacent to Tarpon Alley where dozens of giant stingrays rest on the bottom. Divers who move slowly and carefully can usually get within a few feet of the rays without disturbing them.

Tarpon Alley is an exciting site where a school of more than 100 giant tarpon reside in a narrow coral canyon at the top of the wall. Divers can swim through the canyon, almost touching the tarpon as they weave back and forth.

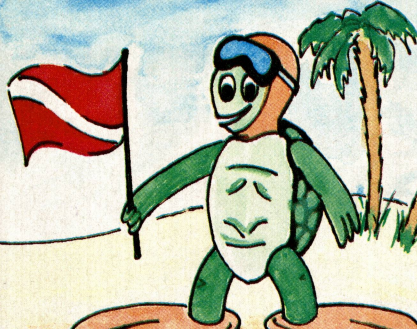
Josh's Canyon is a drop-off that begins in 65 to 70 feet of water. There are a series of high coral cliffs and deep water coral ravines with sandy canyon floors. The tops of the cliffs are covered with staghorn coral beds.

Grouper Point is directly off Conch Point, just east of the Spanish Cove resort. The top of the drop-off begins at 65 feet. This is a very pretty wall with many large black gorgonian fans, sponges and corals of all types. There are Nassau groupers which hang out in the crevices and under ledges in this area.

Spanish Cove Reef is about 100 yards from Spanish Cove and is often dived from shore by the guests staying



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there. The top of the reef is at 25 feet and there is a drop-off which goes down to 55 feet. It is a small vertical wall sometimes called Little Drop-off. This dive is popular because of its many small invertebrates and is considered to be one of the best macro dives on the island.

Hepp's Pipeline is off the northwest shore, directly out from the Turtle Farm. The reef has a strangely shaped undercut coral ledge from 30 to 65 feet. The ledge runs parallel to the shore for hundreds of yards and contains many fascinating sponge formations. There is one huge sponge called Neptune's Chair because it is shaped like a natural seat and is large enough for a scuba diver to sit in. It faces the sea and looks as though it might have been King Neptune's Throne!

LITTLE CAYMAN/ CAYMAN BRAC

The twin sister islands of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac are some 70 to 80 miles northeast of Grand Cayman and separated from the main island by a deep water channel. These two islands have remained pretty much unaffected by Grand Cayman's boom in tourism, condominium development and banking. Cayman Brac has a resident population of 1500 people and a rural atmosphere. Little Cayman is totally undeveloped and

has a population of approximately 20 people. Despite their solitude, both Little Cayman and Cayman Brac offer unique opportunities for superb diving.

FLIGHTS

Although Little Cayman and Cayman Brac are not quite as accessible for tourism as Grand Cayman, it has grown increasingly easier to reach these islands

by air. Cayman Airways operates a direct flight from Miami to Cayman Brac twice weekly. Inter-island service is provided daily by Cayman Airways. If you are traveling from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac, there are flights twice daily except on Tuesdays. The flight from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac is approximately 45 minutes long aboard a 16 seat Trislander. The Trislander goes on to Little Cayman four or five times weekly. It is a five min-

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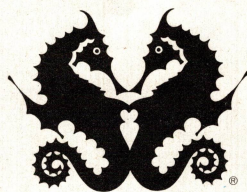
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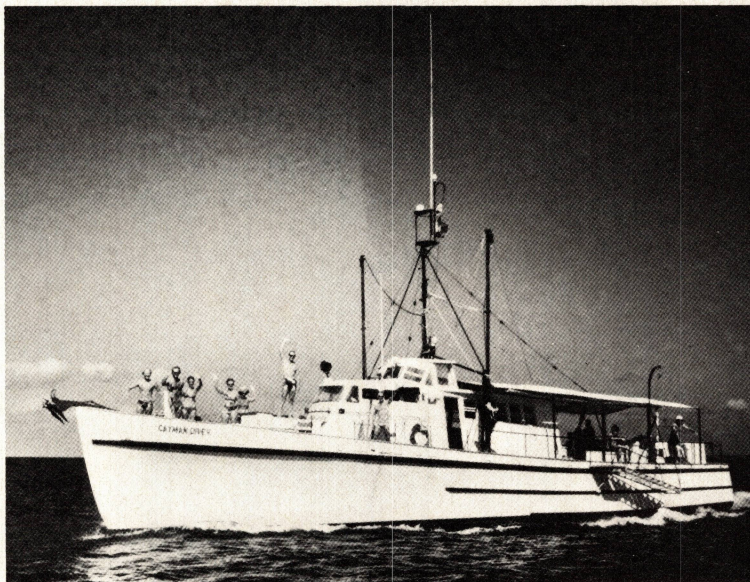
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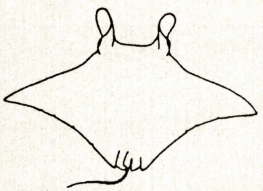
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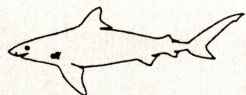
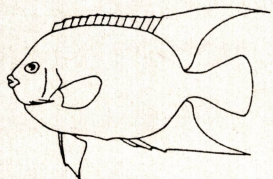
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ute flight between the Brac and Little Cayman. Cayman Airways is instituting a new jet service twice weekly from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac and on to Miami. Because of the multitude of flights departing on various days, it is best to refer to the Cayman Airways printed schedule for up-to-date information.

HOTELS

Two exciting developments on Cayman Brac to take place this past year are the lengthening of the airport runway to accommodate commercial 727 jets, and the refurbishing and expansion of Cayman Brac's leading dive resort hotel.

The Brac Reef Hotel has been purchased by the Divi Divi Corporation and renamed the Tiara Beach Hotel. The Divi Divi Corporation, under the direction of diver/attorney Wally Wiggins, is best known for the development of the Flamingo Beach Hotel—Bonaire's biggest dive resort. Using the same formula for success, Divi Divi has refurbished and expanded the Tiara Beach property. Sitting on the south side of the Brac, this hotel is an all around resort with a tennis court, freshwater swimming pool and two bars.

Two other hotels on the Brac are Buceaneer's Inn and new Brac Reef Hotel.

Little Cayman also has new developments this year: Pirates Point, a small hotel facility designed specifically for divers, continues to grow. It is the very first scuba resort to be established on Little Cayman and features a small dive shop, three air compressors, 40 scuba tanks and four boats. This eight room resort can handle groups of up to 16 divers.

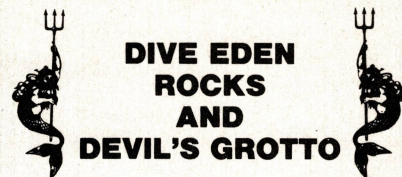
Other hotels here are the Southern Cross Club and Kingston Bight Lodge.

DIVE SITES/CAYMAN BRAC

Off the south shore and one mile east of the Tiara Beach Hotel is a shallow dive known as **Condo**. This reef has unusually large elkhorn: In some places it rises up from the 40 foot bottom to within 10 feet of the surface. The elkhorn is fairly thick, thus there is a maze of tunnels and passageways beneath the branches.

Anchor Site is an exciting wall dive which begins at 65 feet. The main feature of this site is a giant iron anchor caught in a crevice 95 feet back from the face of the wall. The anchor is nine feet tall and seven feet across the flukes and is estimated to be 100 years old. This is considered to be one of the most remarkable dive sites at Cayman Brac.

The Hobbit is an enchanting drop-off that features a number of bizarre looking



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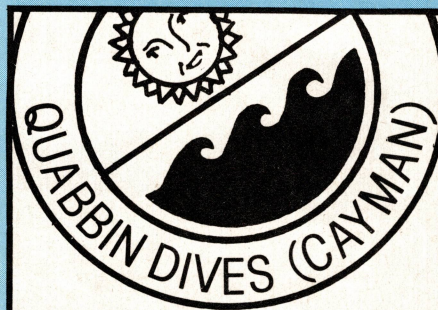
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sponges. There is a giant double basket sponge which sits on the edge of the drop-off at 70 feet. The remarkable sponge is at least six feet tall and over eight feet wide. The drop-off itself is a series of massive coral ravines which often turn into tunnels. There are many iridescent, azure vase, brown tube and red finger sponges.

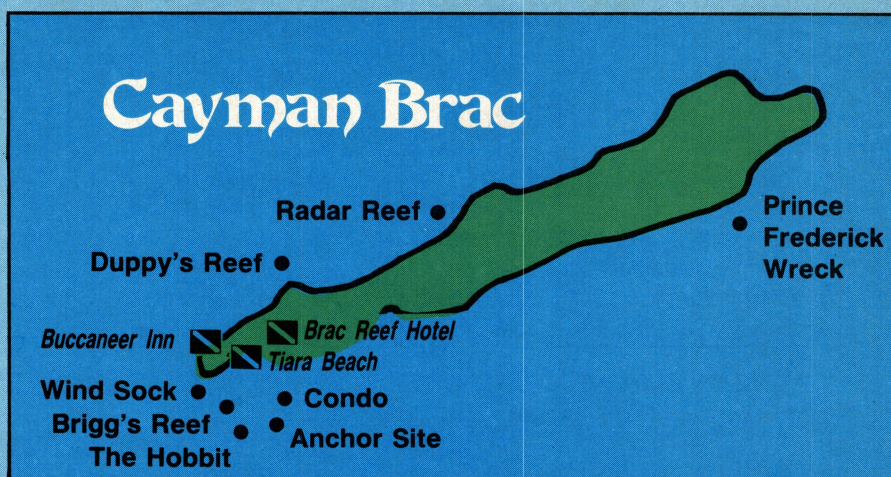
Brigg's Reef is 250 yards offshore a house owned by a man named Brigg. It is 20 feet to the top of the elkhorn coral reef and 40 feet to the bottom of the canyons. The reef has winding coral channels running seaward from shore.

Wind Sock is an excellent spot for elkhorn coral formations, staghorn beds and tall pillar corals. Diving depths range from 25 to 50 feet. There are a lot of small reef fish at this location.

Off the north shore of Cayman Brac, **Duppy's Reef** is a popular beach dive, but it can be dived from a boat. Diving depths range from 25 to 40 feet.

Radar Reef can be dived from shore or by boat. Diving depths range from 30 to 60 feet. There are several types of angelfish living here including; grays, queens and French.

The **Prince Frederick** is off the south shore, about a 45 minute boat ride from the hotel. The wreck lies in 20 to 25 feet of water and is broken into sections. The scattered remains of this once great sailing ship lie hidden under an immense forest of elkhorn coral.



est of elkhorn coral. For as far as the eye can see, there is row after row of branching formations, some 30 feet across.

LITTLE CAYMAN/DIVE SITES

Lying off the south shore of Little Cayman in about 50 feet of water is the totally intact shipwreck the **Soto Trader**. It is a small island freighter which sits upright on the bottom.

Little Cayman Wall is on the north side of the island, two miles east of the western tip. The wall is less than one mile long and starts in 20 feet of water, dropping vertically to 700 feet or more. The

fish appear to be extremely tame on this reef and include grouper, squirrelfish, parrotfish, jacks, chubs and barracudas.

One of the best known dive sites on Little Cayman is **Bloody Bay Wall**. This begins at a depth of 20 feet and drops vertically to 1000 feet. The face of the wall is absolutely sheer and actually undercuts in some places. Along the face of this drop-off divers will encounter an extraordinary variety of colorful sponges.

There is one section along Bloody Bay which is known as **Three Fathom Wall**. Here the lip of the drop-off rises to within 18 feet of the surface. There is a fairly well defined crevice which cuts into the

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2 Br. P/V	—	—	—	329
2 Br. G/V	—	—	—	279
1 Br. P/V	449	739	1039	279
1 Br. G/V	399	659	919	259

** O/F - Ocean View - P/V Pool View - G/V Garden View **

EXTRA NIGHT

	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON
3 Br. O/F	—	—	—	111
2 Br. P/V	—	—	—	115
2 Br. G/V	—	—	—	101
1 Br. P/V	157	101	—	—
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face of the wall at this lovely sea garden of coral fans, sponges and other beautiful marine life.

Another excellent wall dive site at Little Cayman is a spot known as **Jackson Point**. This drop-off is entirely different and features great coral canyons, high coral heads and many caves. The site is loaded with reef fish of every description and has many excellent sponge formations. Both Bloody Bay Wall and Jackson Point have become legendary dive sites.

INFORMATION

Brochures and more information about the Cayman Islands are available by contacting the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism at any one of the seven offices listed in our sidebar. »

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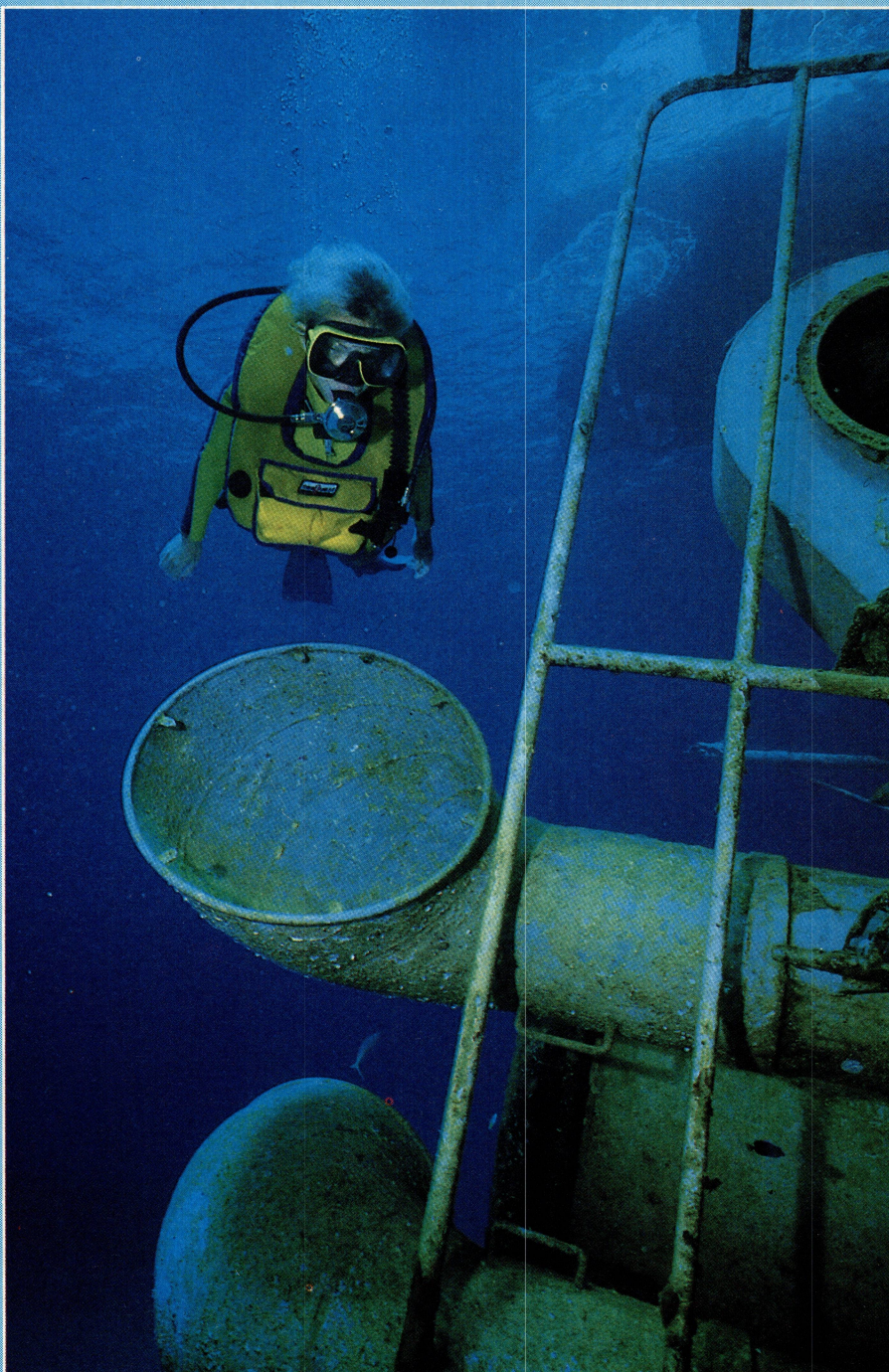
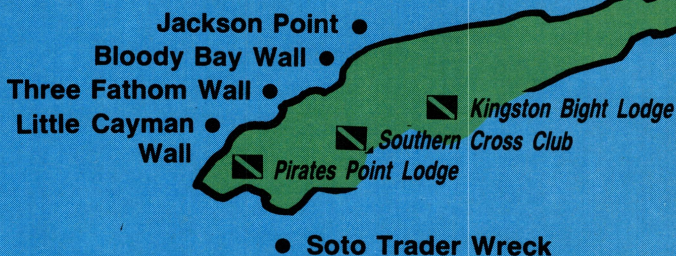
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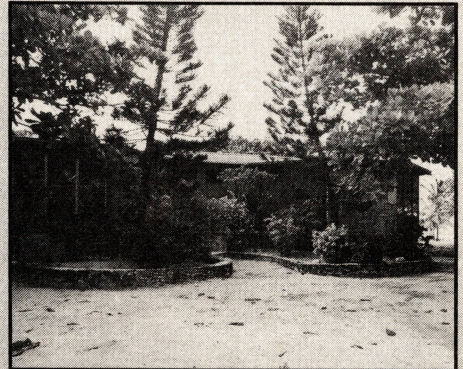
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Little Cayman





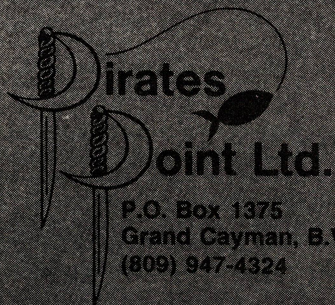
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SDM travel **SECTION**

There is a dive site on the Caribbean island of Bonaire that was not named for the fish one might see; the coral formations; or some romantic reason. It was named for the way in which the first divers entered the water. The name of this dive site is Rappel. The idea behind such an unusual method of getting in the water was to see if rappelling—descending a mountain or the face of a cliff by using ropes—was possible in full scuba equipment without too much danger.

Stan Gdowski, a mountaineer and diver from New Jersey, traveled to Bonaire with all the necessary gear and was in charge of all the aspects of the rappel. He also explained the techniques to me and together we made many practice descents on small faces of cliffs without the scuba equipment. Finally, after I felt reasonably assured I was ready, a suitable location was chosen for the actual rappel in full scuba gear. We soon found it was possible, without too much danger, but the main feature of the entire exercise was what was discovered upon entering the water. Before this no one had dived in the area and neither of us expected such beauty underwater.

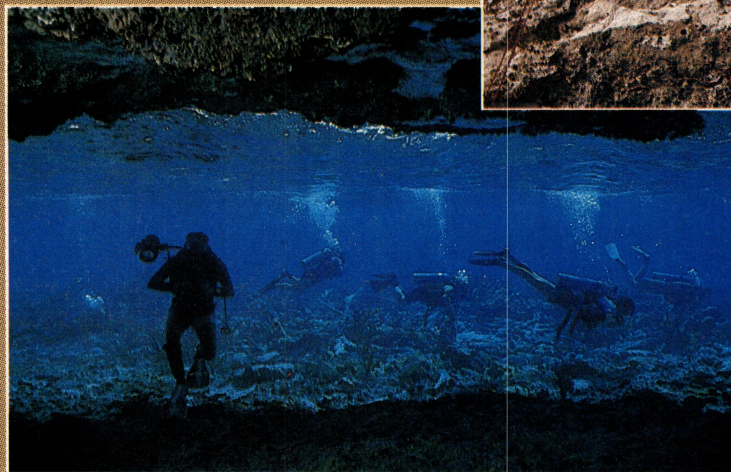
Rappel is like no other reef on Bonaire. The 65 foot sheer face above the waterline continues underwater to a depth of about 35 feet. Here the reef flattens out to a ledge about 50 to 70 feet wide before taking a spectacular drop to several hundred feet. Both the shallows and the drop-off are covered with corals of every description.

Just below the present day water level there is a beautiful undercut formed when the oceans were lower. It is very much like swimming in a cave but with one side completely open. Waves smash overhead, causing a churning of white water and a

BONAIRE CLIFF DIVING

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**TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BRUCE BOWKER**

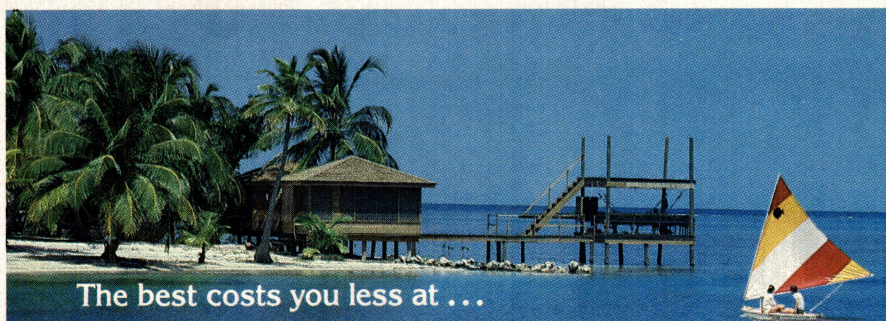


deep rumble that a diver can both hear and feel. Pockets of air trapped in crevices and holes disappear when a wave strikes and then suddenly return as the wave recedes. All along this cavern are orange cup corals, many of which, because of the low light level, are out feeding. Their tiny orange tentacles wave relentlessly in the surge.

There is also a pair of French angelfish that make this area their home along with a large tiger grouper.

Lately, a school of ten or more barracuda have been frequenting the reef.

Because the shallow area directly under the cavern is well covered in shadows from the overhead cliff, interesting available light photography can be done easily. Contrast from the outlined undercut and the blue water gives a very unusual effect. Sunlight beams down from the surface. Divers need only swim a few feet out of the shadow to become completely covered in strong sunlight; enough that a



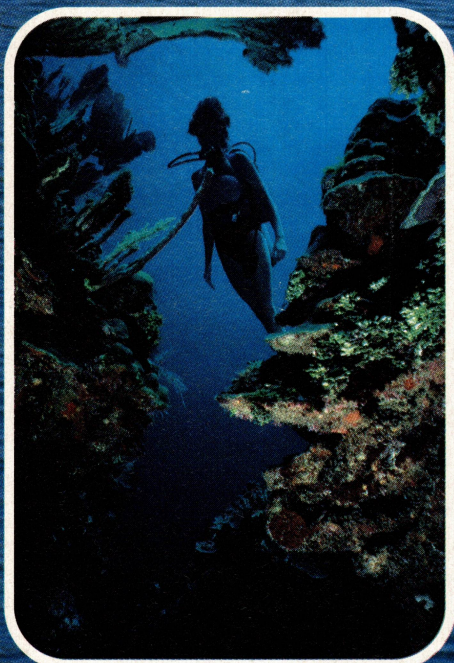
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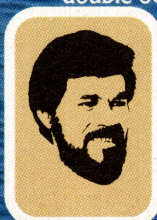
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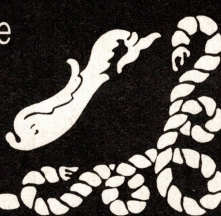
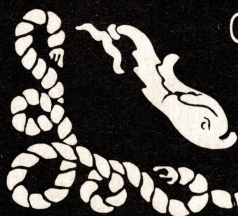


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CLIFF DIVING BONAIRE

strobe is not absolutely essential.

At one time a very small section of Rappel was used as a dumping area for electrical fixtures such as air conditioners and small transformers. This was long before the rules governing the protection of Bonaire's reefs were in effect. The dive operators on Bonaire got together, and with the help of about ten divers, removed almost every piece of debris, making Rappel perhaps one of the most beautiful and unique reefs on Bonaire.

The dive boats from all the shops and hotels take trips to Rappel and tie up to the permanent mooring there so no anchors will damage the reef. It is no longer necessary to push off the top of the cliff with rope and carabiners, laden down with full scuba gear, to see the reef and fish. If you actually want to do Rappel the classic way you can bring your ropes—but the trip back up the cliff is a bit harder than getting down.

JACOBY TRIPS/PHOTO COURSES

For those who want to combine underwater photography with a vacation, Dick Jacoby plans a full schedule of trips and advanced courses during 1984. There will be five trips to the Caribbean and South Pacific, plus eight advanced courses in the United States. As always, Jacoby supplies all U/W photo equipment to help make the trips hassle-free. This year some trips offer underwater video as well.

For the seventh year Jacoby will teach advanced courses for the experienced U/W photographer. For those who wish, the course can help toward an instructor rating in U/W photography.

Trips are scheduled for Flamingo Beach, Bonaire, Feb. 11-18; Anthony's Key, Roatan, March 24-31; New Guinea, June 17-July 1; Freeport, Grand Bahama, Aug. 4-11; and Spanish Cove, Grand Cayman, Nov. 24-Dec. 1.

Advanced courses are available in New Orleans, Jan. 17-18; Atlanta, Feb. 25-26; Houston, Mar. 17-18; Miami, April 23-24; Chicago, May 6-7; Seattle, July 21-22; Chicago, Sept. 15-16; and Baltimore, Nov. 3-4.

For information phone Jacoby or write him at The Creative Whale in West Chicago, IL.

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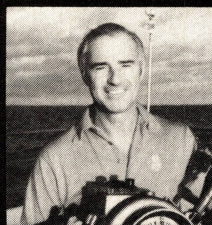
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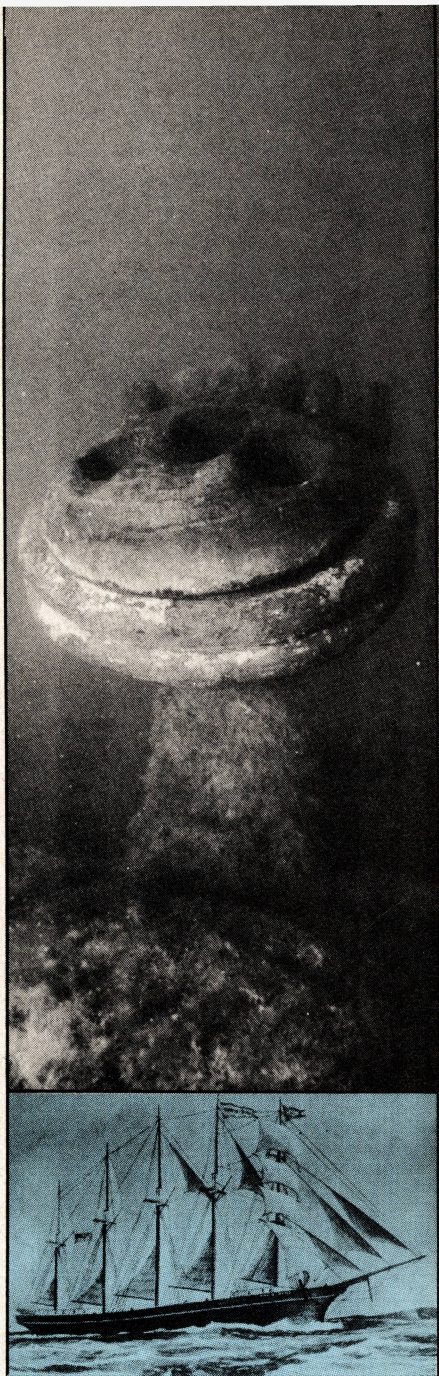
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QUEEN OF THE LAKES

Wreck of gigantic saller
explored by divers
in Lake Michigan

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY RICHARD TRIEBE

It was a warm spring day that greeted the anxious crowd in May 1881. People had journeyed from many parts of the country to view the launching of a new vessel that was causing quite a stir in the marine community. The reason for that stir was gazed upon by the excited crowd: She stood with a sleek black hull and five towering masts. Her name was the *David Dows* and they called her Queen of the Lakes, and fittingly so, for she was the largest sailing vessel ever to navigate those waters.

The five masts, ranging in size from 21 to 36 inches in diameter, were each 97 feet high. A topmast 65 feet high was then added to each of these, making the total height 162 feet. The five masts enabled her to carry an enormous 70,000 yards of the finest Mt. Vernon duck canvas without being top heavy. The foremast was square rigged, with double topsails and topgallant sails, making this proud ship an unmistakable sight from shore. She had two centerboards to help her navigate a straight course and they were retractable so she could sail the shallow waters near some ports. Her keel was 260 feet and her overall length, 278 feet. Her rib frames were strengthened by ten tons of eight inch strapping, a new idea at the time.

Touring the giant ship for the first time, guests were amazed to find furnishings no less luxurious than those of the finest hotels of the time. The forecabin and cabin, both above decks, were quite comfortable and filled with modern conveniences. The large, roomy forecabin featured berths for eight men plus a cozy sitting room. In the cabin were spacious rooms for all the ship's officers and a handsome dining room with hand carved ceiling panels.


Eight large hatches found access to the hold which could house 2500 to 2800 tons of soft coal or 90,000 bushels of wheat. These loads, however, were limited by the shallow waters of the lake harbors. Her career as a freight hauler was highly questionable though. She set records for hauling grain but she was rumored to be too large to be very maneuverable. Following two collisions which resulted in the sinking of the schooner *Charles K. Nims* and four deaths due to drowning on the schooner *Richard Mott*, her topmasts were taken down and her rig simplified.

She ended her career as a barge on November 30, 1889. She was being towed down Lake Michigan by the steamer *Aurora* in a strong gale with heavy seas and thick snow. At 8:00 pm on the 29th she sprang a leak and the steam pump and hand pump could only slow the level of water in the hold. At 3:00 on

the morning of the 30th the steam pump gave out. After a long, fruitless struggle to bring his tow nearer the port of Chicago, Captain Kelly of the *Aurora* cast off his tow line in an effort to go for help for the stricken *Dows*. The crew, seeing this, despaired. They gave up work at the pumps and climbed the rigging to await the end. By the time they were eventually rescued by a tug the men suffered frostbitten hands and feet but no lives were lost.

Now, after much anticipation, came my time to dive the wreck. I checked my pressure gauge. It read 3100, a good fill. Maybe this was an omen of a good dive ahead. I checked my equipment one last time then did a back roll into cold Lake Michigan waters. Drifting down the anchor line I vaguely saw the bottom through the twilight. I halted my descent and checked my depth gauge. It read 20 feet. I was in 40 feet of water so that meant I had 20 feet of visibility; another good omen. In southern Lake Michigan, about nine miles off Chicago, six or seven feet is average visibility.

I reached the anchor but found no wreck! It had to be here, we had gotten a good signal on our sounder. I swam about 25 feet straight out from the anchor and looked around. There, out of the blue green, was the faint image of a mammoth dark wall. I swam closer. It was about 12 feet high, 2 feet thick and 15 feet long. I realized this must be one of the two centerboards the *Dows* carried. A little farther along I found the hull to be relatively intact but minus all of the decking.

I swam forward outside the port hull and noticed a section of railing on top of the gunwale above me. I swam up to it and peered through, half expecting to see masts and rigging still in place. They weren't. My disappointment didn't last though as I studied the rail and hull more closely. Such huge timbers went into the building of this ship that she seemed out of place at the bottom of Lake Michigan. She was truly as invincible as man could make her, but hardly a match for the tremendous seas Lake Michigan generated in November of 1889. About 60 to 70 feet forward of the stern the hull did a nose dive into the sandy bottom. I followed a line of ribs sticking up from the bottom and saw a large dark object ahead—the centerboard again. Forward of this there is mostly sand for the wreck is more than half buried. She dives into the sand almost as if she were trying to dig her own grave. A glance at my pressure gauge and I could see I must return to the boat. I took a long last look and started my ascent to the familiar world of warmth and light. Once back aboard the dive boat I breathed the fresh sea air, thankful for having been able to glimpse the past. 



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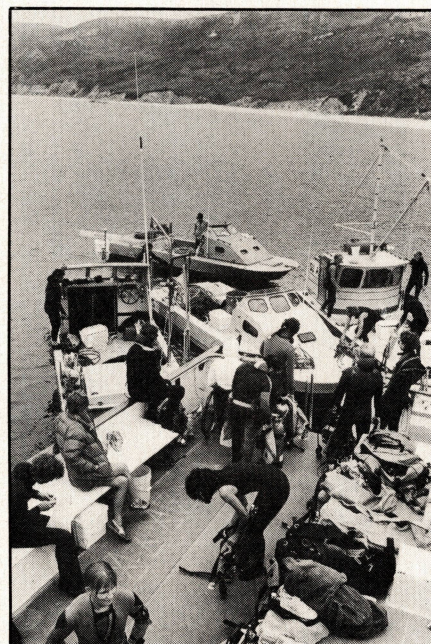
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THE GREAT ABALONE PLANT

BY HILLARY HAUSER

The sealife population of the California Channel Islands swelled by about 9000 baby abalone last August as commercial divers got together with sport divers in The Great Abalone Plant.

It was a first, because the two diving factions have in the past not harmonized all that well. On this day, all friction disap-



photos/Jason Bleibtreu

peared as commercial divers from the California Abalone Association brought their boats to the east end of San Miguel Island, to lead recreational divers in planting the "babies" on the reef.

"This will be just like planting trees," said CAA president Win Swint to the divers the night before the dive. "You will dig a thousand little holes and it will take some time."

Each abalone would have to be placed by hand, commercial diver John Holcomb told the participants, and it would take 5-10 seconds for each to grab on. Also, it was important that the babies be placed in spots protected from underwater predators.

Fishes—particularly the California sheephead and certain types of rock cod—would gather around the abalone planting spots in hopes of scooting in for a handout, Holcomb said. Divers would have to chum the planting areas by breaking a sea urchin, thus distracting the fishes from the baby abalone.

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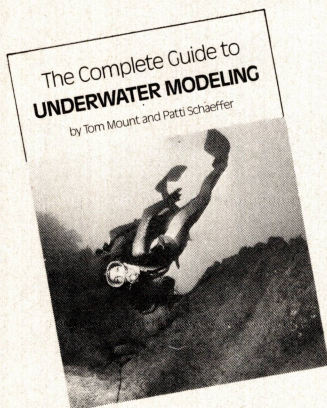
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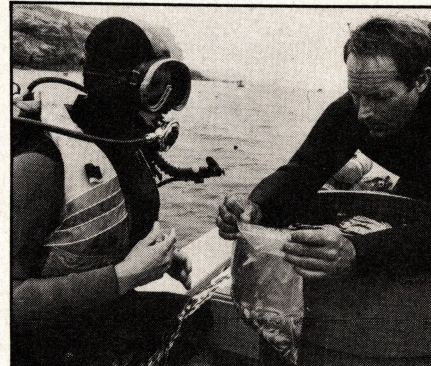
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GREAT AB PLANT

Starfish would have to be removed, too, and brought aboard the boats to be placed elsewhere.

The dive went like clockwork. The charter boat *Conception*—donated to the project by Roy Hauser and Glen Fritzler of Truth Aquatics—left the Santa Barbara harbor at 4:00 am, arriving at Cuyler Har-



bor on San Miguel at 8:00 am. The commercial boats, about eight of them, arrived immediately after.

Then the plant got underway at the east end of the island.

About two dozen recreational divers had come to Santa Barbara from as far away as San Francisco to participate in the planting, paying \$100 to buy 100 abalone each. BlueWater Wetsuits, Los Angeles, donated \$1,000 and CAA, a Santa Barbara-based organization of commercial divers dedicated to mariculture, supplied the rest.

The baby abalone, each measuring between 20-25 mm—the largest about the size of a quarter—were given to the div-



ers in plastic bags, about 100 to a bag. On the average, it took each diver about an hour to plant 50 abalone. The water was typical for San Miguel—cold, green and with a fair amount of surge—but every diver went in with enthusiasm.

Abalone are "simple suction cups," Swint told the divers. "They need a clean, smooth place to adhere to, and you should tuck them back in a protective crack in a ledge close to a sand bottom."

The suction cups had a tendency to stick to each other in the plastic bags and divers had to gently slide them apart. The baby abalone were planted in groups of two to four, with each cluster about two feet apart.

The clustering arrangement, Swint explained, would help in the propagation of the animals. When an abalone reaches about two inches in length, it begins to spawn, sending its seed into the ocean currents. Within six to 10 days, the spawn can drift for miles from its release site, and the hope is that some percentage of the spawn will develop into whole new abalone populations.

Mariculturists all have their own philosophies for replanting programs in the open ocean, and CAA's approach is to plant as many abalone as possible—high numbers balancing the effects of predation on the young animals.

Swint said that the babies would not be visible for about three years, but that soon after, "they would begin to pop out all over the place."

"We hope you take something back with you," Swint told the divers. "Mainly that you've just given something back to the sea."

LADY CYANA DIVERS

Lady Cyana Divers is a complete scuba facility at Mile Marker 85.9 on U.S. Hwy. 1 in Islamorada, Florida Keys. The shop offers daily reef trips aboard the 40 foot *Lady Cyana*; accommodation packages; scuba instruction from basic to divemaster; resort courses; air; sales; service and rentals.

The *Lady Cyana* is a custom built, Coast Guard certified dive boat, and sails twice daily for a two tank, two location dive trip.

Lady Cyana Divers is owned and operated by Joan Follmer and Ken Wright, whose combined dive experience totals over 39 years.

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A diver's vacation, including lesson and reef dive, plus accommodations at Treasure Cay Beach Hotel and Villas on Abaco's eastern shore, is available through April 28. Treasure Diver's Scuba package includes introductory lesson, for which experienced divers may substitute one additional dive; a coral reef dive trip including all necessary gear; taxes and gratuities; and complimentary tennis; golf green fees; snorkeling gear; use of Sun-fish or Sailfish sailboats; and chaise lounge and towels at beach and pools.

Treasure Cay's Diving Centre is operated by the Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) and offers night dives, full certification programs, equipment rental and a variety of special dives.

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CHURCH COURSES

Jim and Cathy Church will conduct their 1984 summer U/W photography courses at St. Thomas, USVI, for the fourth consecutive summer. Multi-level and advanced-courses are offered in both a seven day and a ten day format.

Five multi-level, seven-day courses will begin May 27, June 24, July 22, September 2 and 16. Each course begins on a Sunday afternoon, is followed by six, 12 hour days of intensive instruction ending on the following Sunday morning. The first three nights are spent at Villa Olga with daily classroom and underwater instruction. The remaining four nights are



spent at sea, aboard *Mohawk II*, for intensive photo diving. Two multi-level ten day courses begin on June 10 and August 5. These courses feature three additional nights aboard *Mohawk II* so students gain more time to practice advanced U/W photographic techniques.

The multi-level courses are designed to serve both beginners and experienced U/W photographers and many students have repeated these courses three or more times. Beginners can learn basic camera handling while advanced students work with multiple lighting.

The two "critter" (advanced) courses are limited to students who have already taken one or more multi-level courses with the Churches. A ten day critter course begins July 8 and seven day critter course begins August 19. The critter course differs from the multi-level courses in that more emphasis is placed on biology of marine subjects than on the mechanics of U/W photography.

Both Jim and Cathy will personally instruct the courses full time, and Kathie Mullins will be assisting. Because the St. Thomas Diving Club will provide dive-masters and boat crews, the Churches can devote all of their time to U/W photographic instruction. A wide variety of equipment is available, and the Churches can furnish everything a student needs for the course. Students must be certified scuba divers.

For a free brochure, write directly to: Jim and Cathy Church, P.O. Box 80, Gilroy, CA 95021-0080.

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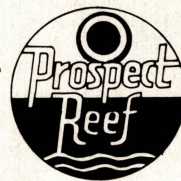
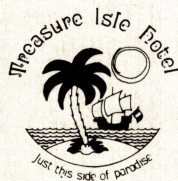
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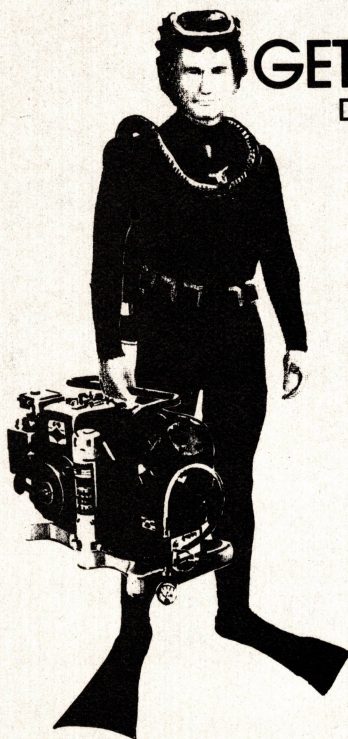
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BUCCANEER EXPANDS

The Buccaneer Hotel of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, has recently expanded guest services to include a new fitness center and new riding stables. The Olinekova Fitness Center, part of the Florida Spa & Fitness Center, will offer guests a variety of equipment including Nautilus, York, scales, lifting benches and exercycles. Trained personnel are provided to oversee each guests' activities and to provide guidance as needed.

The new riding program at The Buccaneer was begun with the opening of stables and will include trail rides featuring views of St. Croix's shoreline as well as beach rides and a riding ring next to the stables.

The new services complement the hotel's existing offerings of guest activities including an 18 hole golf course, eight tennis courts, three beaches and a complete watersports program of scuba, snorkeling, boardsailing, sport fishing and day sailing.

LUCAS PHOTO COURSE

Steve Lucas will teach an underwater photo course at Ginnie Springs, FL, March 17-19. It will include 12 hours of lecture and photo dives.

This special course is aimed at both beginning and experienced underwater photographers. Covered in the course will be; available light and strobe use; macro and wide angle technique; lighting and composition; plus an introduction to light theory.

Some specialized equipment, as well as wide angle lenses, will be provided. Students should provide their own basic camera equipment. Rental camera equipment is available.

For more details, contact Ginnie Springs in High Springs, FL.

DIVE FOR DAN

SeaVentures International Inc. is sponsoring a Dive for DAN (Divers Alert Network) trip to the Bahamas on the M/V *Impossible Dream* April 26-30. SeaVentures will donate 20 percent of the gross proceeds to DAN.

For information contact SeaVentures International, Inc., P.O. Box 3271 Indianantic, FL 32903 or DAN, Box 3823, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27710.

BOTTOM TIME/DRY TORTUGAS

In April the *Bottom Time* is offering three special trips to the Dry Tortugas. Rarely visited by divers, the Tortugas is a group of small islands 70 miles west of Key West, Florida.

For more information contact Bottom Time Adventures, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

CAYMAN/IKELITE PHOTO PROS

Ikelite engineer Larry Ostendorf recently conducted a service seminar for the photo pros at Spanish Cove and South



photo/Stephen Frink

Cove Resorts, Grand Cayman, B.W.I. As each resort is operating full service underwater photo centers, the seminar was important to train personnel in the use and maintenance of Ikelite rental and retail photographic equipment. ❦

WHALE SHARK EXPEDITION

La Mer Diving Seafari, Inc. is offering an expedition with Howard Hall to photograph whale sharks in the Sea of Cortez. La Mer president Amos Nachoum will also join the May 30-June 10 expedition. To maximize the opportunities of sighting these huge fish, La Mer will charter a spotter plane. ❦

CARIBE DIVER

The St. Thomas Diving Club has recently added the 51 foot *Caribe Diver* to its dive boat fleet. *Caribe* carries up to 36 divers to the many dive sites around the St. Thomas area. In addition, the *Caribe Diver* will be utilized for any trips to the wreck of the *Rhone* off Tortola. ❦

The *Caribe Diver* is St. Thomas Diving Club's fourth dive vessel and joins the *Mohawk II*, a 68 foot luxury live-aboard, and two 25 foot Deltas. ❦

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During May, June, September and October four or more divers traveling together will be eligible for a special package at the Flamingo Beach Hotel on Bonaire—home of Peter Hughes' Dive Bonaire. The package includes seven nights' accommodation (double occupancy), roundtrip airport/hotel transfers, baggage handling, welcome cocktail, breakfast and dinner daily, 12 guided boat dives including one night trip, and unlimited use of tanks and air fills for beach diving. ❦

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For information contact Sea Shadows in Saint Croix. ❦

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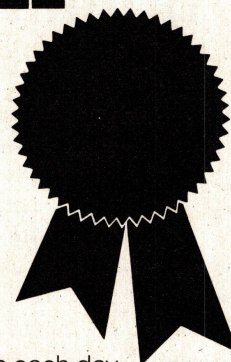
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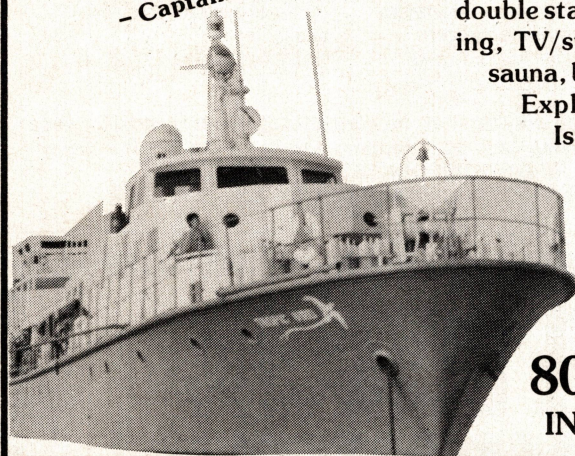
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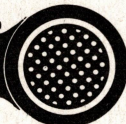
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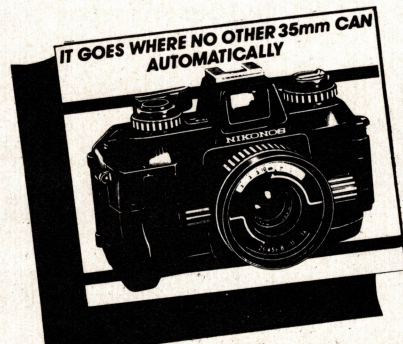
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AT REEF/MOBERLEY TO AUSTRALIA

AT Reef Ventures is offering a Fun Down Under Dive Safari escorted by Grover Moberley. Starting from San Francisco on May 9, Moberley will accompany the group to Townsville for a ten day trip aboard the T.S.M.V. *Reef Seeker*.

The 63 foot vessel, with six crew, will depart Townsville Saturday, May 12 to the Great Barrier Reef and beyond into the Coral Sea, returning via Flinders Passage and the wreck of the *Yongala*. On Tuesday, May 22 the group will disembark the *Reef Seeker* and head for five days in Sydney at the Hyde Park Plaza with tours to the Royal National Park, Koola Sanctuary and sheep stations. The tour ends May 26 when the group will depart Sydney for the overseas flight home. For more information contact AT Reef Ventures in Ft. Lauderdale.

ANTHONY'S KEY EXPANSION

Anthony's Key Resort on Roatan has completed a major expansion program. Eighteen new private bungalows have been built. Some replace older units, and some provide additional guest space. Many are built on stilts in protected areas of the lagoon. The new rooms are slightly larger, but retain the island flavor for which the resort is known.

To serve the additional guests, the dining deck has been enlarged, more gear storage space has been added at the dock, and a fourth, 40 foot dive boat has been launched.

DIVE EXPERIENCE

Dive Experience, at Salt River Marina on the north shore of St. Croix, features boat dives daily aboard the 40 foot *Sea Works*, a spacious 17 ton Coast Guard licensed dive boat. Dive tours and hotel packages are offered with transportation to the boat from the hotel. All dives include equipment and dive guides. U/W camera rental is available as well.

At the core of Dive Experience is Michelle Pugh, a PADI instructor who has been diving in St. Croix since 1977. Michelle and her staff can take care of every diver's certification and checkout requirements.

For information contact Michelle Pugh, c/o Dive Experience, Inc.

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Reflections

Another side of Underwater Photography

Text by Jim and Cathy Church

Once you've mastered the basics of underwater photography, and have taken the usual pictures of divers and sealife, the challenge may diminish. If so, you need a fresh technique to present new views of subjects before your camera lens.

Photographing reflections can be an exciting way to add interest and sparkle to your U/W slide shows and/or print displays. And, not only will reflections give your pictures a new look, but you face the challenges of developing new skills and enlarging your concepts of composition. Photographing a fish peering at its image in a mirror is probably one of the most common reflection shots, and many divers routinely help photographers set these up. But in this article, we will describe a less common technique—taking a picture showing the subject's image reflected from the underside of a trapped pocket of air.

We were introduced to reflections by Armando Jenik during a dive on the sunken *Cartanser Sr.*, at Little Buck Island, St. Thomas, USVI. Cathy was just at the end of a passageway when Armando signaled her to stop and look up. Cathy could see Armando's reflection clearly on the underside of a pocket of air trapped beneath the overhead of the passageway. And, from Armando's position, he could see Cathy. Armando beckoned Jim over, showed him the setup and moved back while Jim photographed Cathy and her reflected image.

The resulting pictures weren't the world's best. The air pocket got progressively smaller as air escaped through some open bolt holes in the overhead, ripples on the surface of the air pocket distorted the image, and Jim's exhaust bubbles caused debris to rain down from the overhead. Parallax and strobe angle also caused problems: Because he was working close to the reflection with a Nikonos and had to correct for parallax (the difference in lines of sight of the viewfinder and lens) he had to move the camera after the picture was composed through the viewfinder. Thus, he was shooting blind at the moment the shutter was triggered. And, because Cathy was looking up toward the reflection, the bottom of her mask shaded her face.

After analyzing the problems, Jim made a few stick-figure sketches to illus-

trate pose and lighting angle and we returned to the *Cartanser* with a plan. First, we stationed divemaster Tom Conlin on the upper deck, above the passageway, to plug the open bolt holes with his gloved fingertips. Second, Jim filled the air pocket with his octopus regulator. And, third, we waited for the ripples to subside and debris to settle.

The stage was now set. Jim slowly eased into the passageway, positioning himself so he could duck his head through a hatchway to exhale. This prevented his bubbles from striking the overhead and breaking debris loose, and from striking the air pocket and causing ripples. Thus, each time we set the picture up, he would have to hold his breath while composing and triggering the shutter. Cathy helped compose the picture by looking at Jim's reflection. As long as she could see the camera lens clearly, she knew the lens could see her face.

The lighting was tricky. Because Cathy was at the end of the passageway and not covered by the overhead, Jim decided to set the aperture for a sunlight exposure. Beginning with an exposure meter reading off the blue-water background, he then held his wide-beam strobe at the correct strobe-to-subject distance from Cathy to balance the metered aperture. The strobe had to be aimed downward to spread light over Cathy's face and body.

Another variation we tried was to photograph the model's reflected image only, without showing the model below her reflection. This creates a spooky effect because slight ripples in the water surface cause the model's image to appear almost ghost-like in the picture.

Flushed with success, we were anxious to do more. Our second try was with an air pocket inside a large cave, at the Chimney in the British Virgin Islands. The interior of the cave was lined with a profusion of yellow cup corals, sponges and other brightly-colored life. The air pocket—filled by the bubbles of other divers who had passed through—was exquisitely placed and leaked air only slowly.

Jim anticipated success, but we had problems: The yellow cup corals never blossomed, although we visited the cave several times throughout the day. And, when Jim did try to photograph Cathy's reflection, 10,000 divers (according to Jim) swam beneath us and zapped the

reflection with their bubbles. Then, while we were taking a break, photographer Jeff McAdams (the dirty rat) and model Kathie Mullins (the little brat) swam into the cave and took several beautiful shots.

Saving the hard stuff for last, we headed for a smaller cave that was home for a school of glassy sweepers. Several groups of divers had passed through the cave earlier and we easily found the air pocket their bubbles had formed. We slowly moved into place until we were facing each other from opposite sides of the air pocket. Jim raised his camera and waited and waited and waited. The glassy sweepers, eyeing us warily from the darker recesses of the cave, apparently hadn't read the script. Rather than drifting slowly by between us, they stayed in the darkness. Cathy would move around behind the fish and herd them toward Jim and the air pocket, but their cooperation was minimal. They didn't seem to appreciate the problems of arranging a camera, air pocket, model and a school of fish in perfect alignment for the picture. While we did get some interesting slides that can be used in dissolve slide shows, we learned an important point: When working with such conditions, have a third diver assist by herding the fish.

Where can you find reflections? Look anywhere air can be trapped. At the *Balboa*, off Grand Cayman, look at the undersides of the Roman Columns and inside the main hull sections. Or, look at the underside of a surface when it is smooth and unruffled. Once you have seen one reflection, it's easy to find more.

When you try your reflection shots, remember that leaky regulators, tank valves, etc., can release bubbles that can cause problems. Also, when working with an U/W model, it is mandatory that you discuss the picture ahead of time. A model could be quite startled when he/she sees the reflection for the first time and won't know how to pose or where to look.

A wide-angle lens is usually best for reflection shots, especially if you want to include most or all of the model's body as well as the reflection. A wide-angle lens also gives you the depth of field to include both corals around the air pocket as well as the model. You don't, however, always need a wide-beam strobe. A narrow-beam strobe can effectively spotlight your model's head and shoulders.

photo/Jeff McAdams



Don't set focus for the distance from the camera to the air pocket. For the sharpest picture of the reflected image, set the focus for the total distance from camera to reflection to model, but base your strobe exposure on the strobe-to-model distance.

At first, you may not see the reflection. Start with the air pocket centered between you and your model. Then, keeping the same angles from your bodies to the surface, rise up together until you reach the angle at which you will see the reflection. From there, you can alter your positions to fine-tune your composition.

To draw attention to the model's image in the reflection, have the model look up at the camera she sees in the reflection. This will do two things: The model's eyes in the picture lead up to the reflection, and the eyes in the reflection will be staring at the viewers, riveting their attention to the illusion you've created. »

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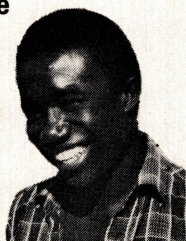
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How To Start A

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CLUB**

BY ALAN WILLIAMS

Being an U/W photographer enables a diver to capture on film the beauty and essence of the marine world. It also adds a list of problems to the diver's mental well-being, such as techniques, equipment, travel, etc. One of the ways to deal with these particular problems is through participation in an underwater photography club.

A line from the Jules Verne novel *From the Earth to the Moon* explains the American way of thinking about clubs. "When an American has an idea, he directly seeks a second American to share it. If there are three, they elect a president and two secretaries. Given four, they name a keeper of records and the office is ready for work. Given five, they converse a general meeting and the club is fully constituted."

Depending on the growth of your club and its needs, this is close to accurate, and almost as easy!

One of the first and primary factors involved in starting a club is participation by its founding members, both from a monetary standpoint and time. The monetary costs encompass meeting room, fliers and phone calls. There are a number of variables involved, but listed below is an outline of a tried and proven method of starting and operating an U/W photo club.

1.) Determine the need and interest for such a club in your area. This can be done by talking to dive stores, clubs and every U/W photographer possible. Many dive stores will be glad to give you the names and telephone numbers of photographers they know.

In starting the club an initial investment in fliers is most helpful. These can be displayed in dive and camera stores, clubs, universities, marinas and anywhere marine related activities are enjoyed. If your local newspaper has a weekly supplement or club and special events section, this is a good attention getter. Many newspapers offer free advertising space to non-profit clubs.

2.) Find a time that is convenient for most working people. Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday are good days and



convenient times are 7:30 or 8:00 pm. Be sure to allow members time to make the meeting without being rushed.

3.) Select a convenient location for the meeting. This problem is most prominent in the larger metropolitan areas. Try to choose a central, easily accessible and easy to find location. After a few months you will get a feel for the attendance record. You may notice that people in certain areas can't always make it because of the distance involved, so try to be flexible in the first months. In the beginning you may have to depend on donated space such as a dive store classroom or other alternatives. After your membership budget rises you may step up to a permanent meeting place, such as a hotel meeting room. Prices can vary for meeting rooms, from \$35 to \$100 a month, depending on your needs. Many will furnish the room and bartender with a portable wet bar.

4.) Charge membership dues. This will depend primarily on the club's overhead such as meeting room, bar, advertising, newsletter and any extras. A normal membership fee would be \$15 or \$20 a year. It is a good idea to try and arrange as many benefits for the members as possible, such as discounts at photo, dive and framing stores, restaurants, etc. Anything you can offer will put you closer to filling your initial membership. Stress that the club is for entertainment and education. It also gives the participant a chance to do something with his or her work other than allowing slides to collect dust in a closet.

One of the most important aspects of getting the ball rolling and keeping it rolling is membership. All members should share in the responsibility of keeping the club active.

5.) Choose a format. This should be as educational and entertaining as possible. The club agenda could include a continuing photo course to be taught monthly; a fish or creature of the month slide show by the members; a question and answer period on problems and techniques; or an equipment list for the sale of used equipment.

If the entertainment features a slide presentation, it should be as professional as possible. The more entertaining the slide show, the more interest will be shown in the club, in a number of ways.

A slide show, for example:

A.) Promotes questions and answers on techniques and equipment.

B.) Provides a much greater chance of members and prospective members returning.

C.) Promotes participation by members (they will want to give their own presentations).

After the club gets on its feet financially it may be possible and definitely appropriate to pay for professional shows.

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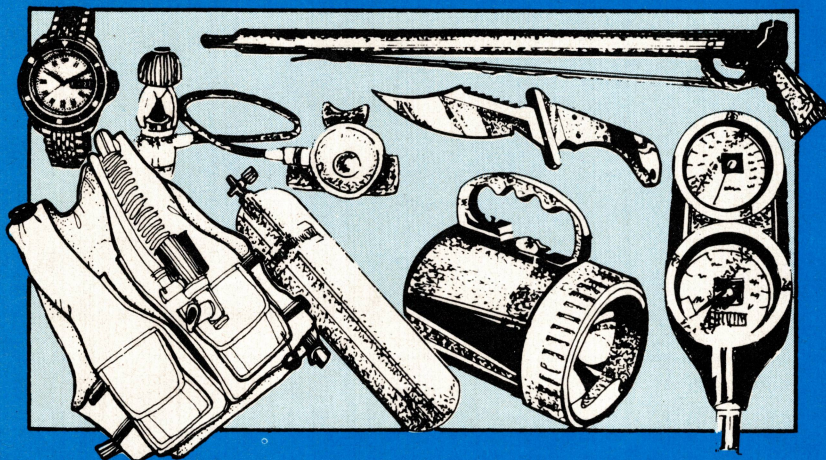
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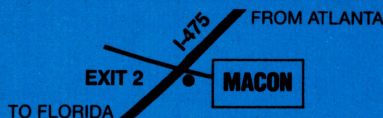
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PHOTO CLUB

6.) Plan extracurricular activities. These can include trips and charters to an exotic spot or for a day. Try to take advantage of group rates. Activities could include:

A.) A flea market for dive gear and camera gear.

B.) An U/W photography contest for either the club or your area.

C.) Selling raffle tickets, with the winner receiving half the proceeds and the club receiving the other half.

7.) Organize club procedures and laws. Unfortunately, business is usually the boring portion of any club meeting, especially for a newcomer, but this is also the time to vote for any new ideas and changes. Check with other clubs or a lawyer to find out the legal requirements for operating a non-profit club. Laws can vary from state to state and city to city, so make sure that all is legal. You can be flexible in the beginning but after the club gets rolling, make sure that all laws are observed.

After the club gets on its feet, a selection of officers either by secret ballots or open debate will be appropriate.

Having reusable name tags for members helps to break the ice and let everyone know who's who.

B.) Balance the budget. Any revenue generated by the club should go for the overhead and benefits. After awhile extras, such as membership cards, newsletters and T-shirts can be added. It may even be possible to add a dissolve unit to the inventory, or bring in a big name for a yearly show.

9.) Put out a newsletter. This can be a self-supporting proposition if handled right. It will also save telephoning members and prospective members to remind them of the upcoming meetings and events.

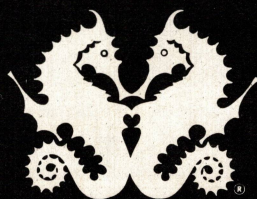
The newsletter can be a simple one page flier or a full-fledged, information packed newsletter. One way to make it self-supporting is to encourage advertising. This can be done either through selling ads or simply putting an extra flier in the envelope. Classified ads should be free to all members!

An alternative to the newsletter, especially in the beginning, is a call list in which members volunteer to call other members or prospectives who live nearby. Generally, the best time to call is between 6:30 and 8:00 pm.

The success of the club, in the beginning, will depend on the energy and foresight of its founding members. Hopefully, this information will help you start a successful U/W photography club in your area. It's really not as hard as it may seem!

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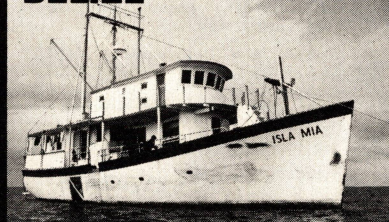
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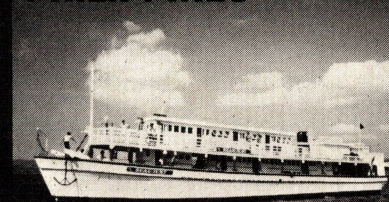


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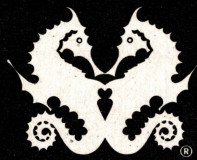
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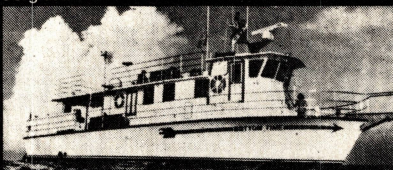
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Radical is the word for Radhial boats. They represent a bold departure from conventional inflatable boat design, and they work. Some of the toughest judges in the world have wrung Radhials through rigid testing procedures, including the U.S. Navy Special Warfare Group, the Canadian Mines, Energy and Resources Group, and the U.S. Army Special Forces. All have chosen the Italian boat to meet their needs.

When we tested Radhial's biggest model, the 955, a year ago we were impressed as well. In our report, we concluded that if the company could convince Americans to accept a plastic boat, they had a winner on their hands. Apparently, they have.

American distributor Franco Rossi returned to the Long Beach Boat Show re-



cently with his best selling model, the 12 foot 630, for us to test. We discovered many similarities to its larger brother, and a few differences.

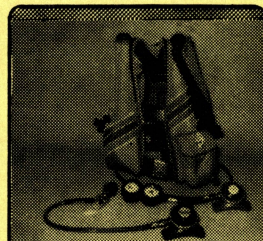
First, let us reexamine what makes Radhial different. It is the only inflatable boat with inner tubes. That's right, just like today's buoyancy compensators, the Radhial's three air chambers consist of separate PVC foil tubes. The material has been made even thinner in the past year for less weight and more pliability. It is a stretchy material designed to be airtight only, because, like tires, the tough outer fabric gives the boat its strength and protects the inner tubes. When inflated, the tube seals snugly against the outer material, so not even water can come between. In case of a puncture, a patch placed on the outside of the tube is held solidly in place by air pressure. The same holds true for patches on the inside of the outer material. Thus, patches applied in the field are strong and absolutely secure. The effect is the same as having a patch between two hands, pressing against each other. No matter which surface the patch is on, the other one presses against it, thus reinforcing the repair. If the owner forgot his repair kit containing glue and patches, duct tape or electrician's tape will do the job on all but the largest holes. An electric heat sealing tool is available as an option for permanent repairs.

Not a drop of glue is used in the manufacture of Radhial boats. All seams are electronically welded. This is possible because the outer covering is made of a



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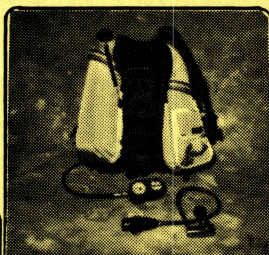
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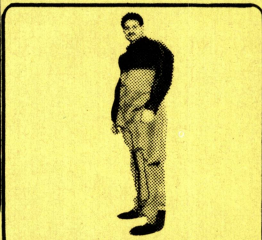
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PACKAGE 2 - Dacor BCT Jacket with power, R.E., and pack, U.S.D. triple console, Oceanic Omega regulator.

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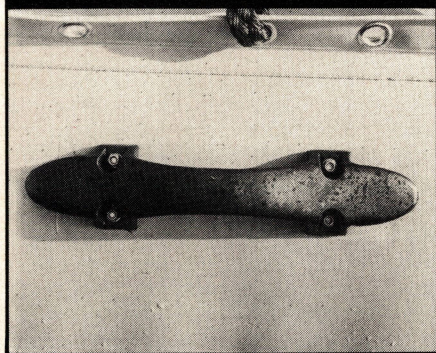
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a double layer of base fabric.

All fittings are screwed into the hull. The inner bag construction makes this possible. Handles, for example, are made of nylon/fiber resin, in the shape of a cleat. They are bolted through the outer fabric to a backing plate of the same material, utilizing four stainless steel bolts and lock nuts. The transom, valves and bow deck are attached in a similar manner. Thus, they can be removed and replaced by the owner if repairs ever become necessary.

Radhial's innovations continue with the patented zipper, running along the perimeter of the boat. Actually a system of interlocking plastic toggles, it can be opened by the owner to repair or replace an inner tube if necessary. When fully inflated, the zipper is securely locked, but the links can be pried apart individually when the air is released. Made of a ny-



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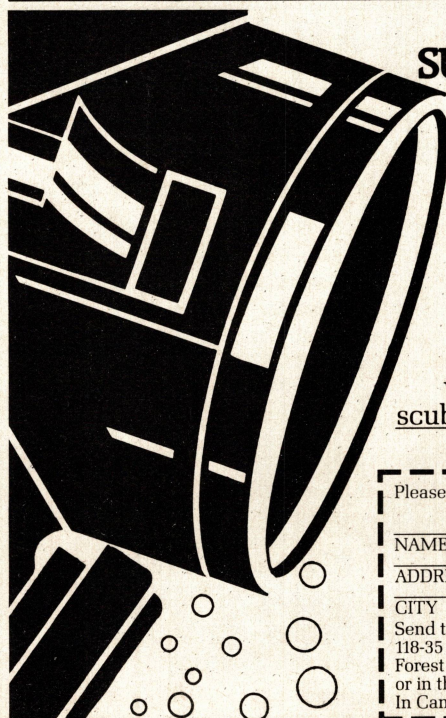
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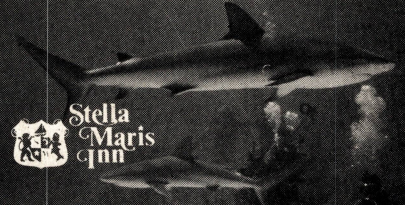
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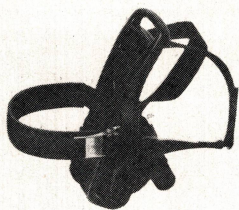
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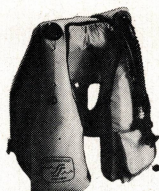
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AMERICAN RADHIAL

lon/fiber resin, the zipper pieces double
as a rub rail. They are softer than fiber-
glass and will not scratch the side of
another boat. In case of damage, toggles
can easily be replaced. Two are included



The Radhial 630 is 12 feet two inches
long and offers advantages in terms
of light weight, portability and econo-
my. It features a wooden foredeck.
All fittings such as the handles and
valves are screwed into the hull. The
outer fabric is opened by a zipper
made of interlocking plastic toggles.

in the spare parts kit.

Radhial's spare parts kit is the most ex-
tensive we have seen for an inflatable
boat. It includes a set of tools, patches,
glue and replacement screws and wash-
ers. Also included is a spare valve and
even a spare side air chamber. Additional
standard equipment includes a pressure
gauge, a pair of oars, a hand pump which
deflates as well as inflates, grab lines,
carrying bags and a mahogany foredeck.

The foredeck replaces the convention-
al fabric bowdodger offered by most
boats. It screws into fittings on the for-
ward pontoons, offering a splash-free
bow storage area. Occupants can kneel
or sit on the foredeck, and an optional
boarding ladder can be stored there. The
Radhial's keel and floorboards are made
of the same marine grade mahogany. In
a boat as advanced as this one, it is sur-
prising that only wooden floorboards are
offered. The company says that they save
weight over the aluminum ones.

The wooden keel fits into a groove in
the transom and breaks into two pieces
for storage. Thrust is distributed from the
motor throughout the boat, helping to
support the transom and reduce wear.
The deep-V bottom resulting from the
keel design allows a blunt bow which af-
fords maximum interior space.

In a 12 foot boat, one needs all the inte-
rior space possible. At 12 feet, 2 inches
in length, the 630 has as much usable

space as boats six inches longer, and is easily carried on top of a car. We tested the boat at Long Beach Harbor, carrying four passengers and powered by an 18 horsepower engine. It was a bit of a struggle to get on a plane, finally requiring a bit of shifting of personnel up toward the bow. But once it got there, the 630 proved to be spirited handler. Tracking was straight and true. She responded



RADHIAL 630

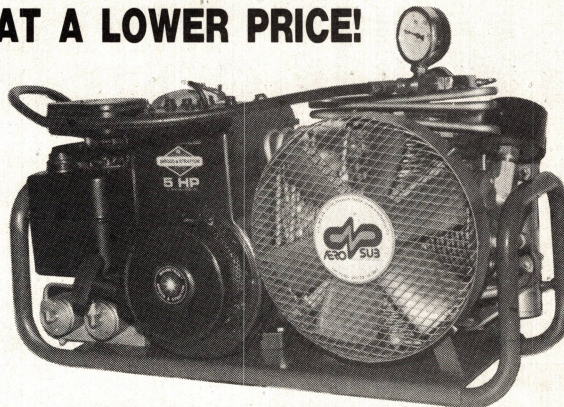
Overall length.....12' 2"
 Overall width5' 7"
 Inside width2' 8"
 Tube diameter.....19" tapering to 12"
 Weight.....150 lbs.
 Capacity.....6 persons, 3 to 4 divers
 Payload.....N/A
 Number of chambers.....3
 Keel.....Wood
 Outer material.....Trevira fabric/
 PVC/polyurethane
 Inner tubes.....PVC
 Floorboards.....Wood, with
 aluminum stringers
 Color.....Red-orange
 Price.....\$1,995

to steering input with precision and the wooden keel held well on turns, just as wooden keels are supposed to. It bounced a bit over light chop, but no more than one would expect of a 12 foot boat. All in all, we rate it as a good performer. It would do even better with a larger engine, perhaps 25 horsepower.

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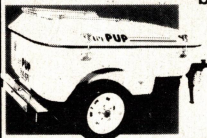
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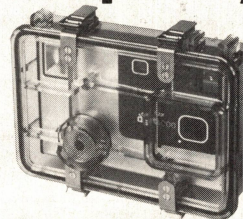
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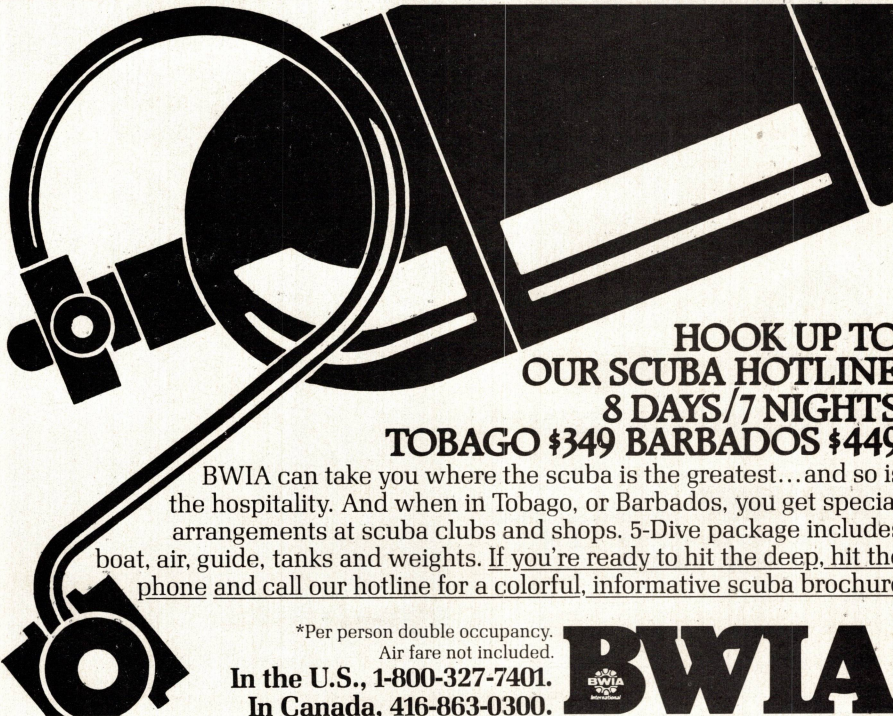
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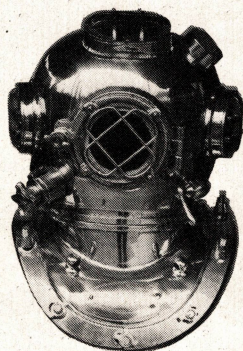
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CHARLES JEHLE RETIRES

Charles J. Jehle, one of the most respected and influential figures in the international dive industry, retires this month from his post as president of SeaQuest, Incorporated, the company he founded in 1971.

SeaQuest, which started as a small two person operation in Orange, California, reached \$1 million in sales after its first 18 months in business. Today, SeaQuest is one of the most sophisticated manufacturer/marketers in the world of diving. Its line of buoyancy compensators represents the acknowledged state-of-the-art and the entire range of products marketed by SeaQuest is considered to be among the finest in the world.

In 1955, at a time when most people knew very little about scuba diving, Jehle became interested in it and took it up as a hobby. Diving equipment, such that



there was, was primitive, yet Jehle stayed with his pursuit. By 1958, he was employed in a full time position as a commercial diver for Northville Oil Docks in New York. Later he became known as one of the better commercial divers in the early years of the industry.

In 1961, AMF Voit invited Jehle to join with them in developing the retail market for their Swimaster Water Sports Division. He worked throughout the eastern states as a salesman for the company.

After three years in sales, AMF Voit advanced Jehle to the position of product manager for the Swimaster line. By the time he left Voit in 1971 he was the marketing manager for the entire Water Sports Division of the company.

Jehle knew the market and the sport and he felt that he had the ability and energy to make contributions and innovations of significance to the sport of diving. SeaQuest was formed and quickly established its name in the industry through quality products including wetsuits, knives, snorkels, masks and BCs.

In 1973, SeaQuest was purchased by Medalist Industries, a company well known in the sporting goods field. Jehle stayed with the company he had founded and served as president and director. In

January of 1975, Medalist reorganized and Jehle took the opportunity to buy his company back.

SeaQuest emerged with a stronger purpose and goal than ever before. Jehle's goal was to engineer a series of high quality buoyancy compensators. The company slogan, "Sold At Better Dive Shops Everywhere," means exactly what it says. Says Jehle, "We're very proud of our dealer network. We work with and support our dealers in every way possible as we realize our success and growth is directly related to theirs."

The policy, the man behind it and the fact that dive enthusiasts are aware of SeaQuest's high quality standards, has drawn international attention to the company throughout its history. In 1978 SeaQuest was approached by AMF Mares Sub—an Italian based manufacturer of diving equipment. Among other products, Mares manufactures the MR12-III regulator, pneumatic guns and masks and has just introduced a new fin in its Plana line—the Power Plana Graphite. The Italian company, a business unit of the AMF Corporation, selected SeaQuest to market its products in the United States. Because the companies have the same philosophy, they are able to work together very closely—not only in the marketing and sales areas, but also in the design and development of new products.

Jehle's company also attracted international notice of another sort just over a year ago. Suunto Oy of Finland, the world's largest manufacturer of diving compasses, had been looking for a means to enter the U.S. market. In the spring of 1982, Suunto purchased Jehle's company and kept its entire management force intact. The acquisition provided the cash and the international support to allow SeaQuest to expand within its own diving industry and to expand laterally into the marine field.

SeaQuest's growth has been carefully paced and well planned. Charley Jehle's keen ability to find the right person for every management post has made the company what it is.

"The qualities of honesty and integrity and service make up the elements that have helped to build this company. These qualities are apparent in everything we do. These are the qualities we look for in the people who work with SeaQuest," said Jehle.

Taking over in the top spot at SeaQuest is R. Dell Price III, who advances from his post as executive vice president. Price has a background surprisingly similar to Jehle's. He was on the AMF Voit marketing team during the early to mid '70s when the company was in the forefront of the sporting goods industry. Price was the marketing manager of Voit's Water Sports Division after Jehle left.

Working closely, Charley Jehle and Dell Price have just opened SeaQuest's warehousing and distribution operation in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This operation

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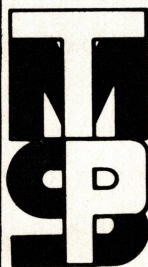
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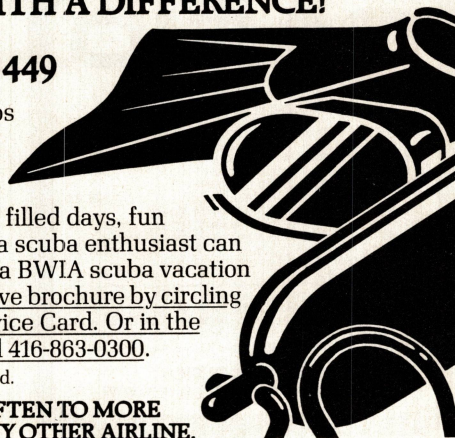
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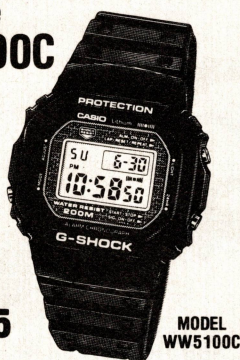
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CHARLES JEHLE RETIRES

will allow SeaQuest to reduce turn-around time to East Coast accounts and to provide convenient delivery to the Caribbean market. Heading the Lauderdale office is Emerson Mulford, Jr., another longtime member of the dive industry with a marketing management background.

Charley's son, Chuck Jehle, vice president and with SeaQuest since its founding in 1971, heads up international marketing as well as all advertising and promotional activities. Steve Taylor has recently joined SeaQuest as national sales manager and brings with him seven years of experience in the industry.

The same care and planning that Jehle put into SeaQuest from the very beginning continues. By hand-picking the management team to keep the company on its winning course, Jehle has guaranteed that SeaQuest will run as finely tuned as ever. The honesty, integrity and quality products and service will assure that the company slogan... "Sold At Better Dive Shops Everywhere" will stand for the same principles far into the future as it has since the company began. ➤

TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 26)

HISTORICAL DIVING

Several Technifacts in past months have discussed historical diving. In one of these (September 1983) two cannon balls found off Waikiki Beach in Hawaii were illustrated. Readers were warned that these old cannon balls were probably armed and potentially hazardous and that they should be handled with care. Several readers have written about the potential danger from very old ordnance, warning that the explosives may become more sensitive with age and advising that such items should either be left alone or arrangements made to have them disarmed by qualified technicians.

Also, Technifacts inferred that Scott Cade of The Scuba Shop in Honolulu had located and recovered these relics. Such was not actually the case. Commercial diver Dave Norquist found the unit dated 1864 and Bret Bearden the one dated 1861.

A great deal of additional historical diving material has been developed, some from Australian divers, and will be presented in a future Technifacts. Of particular significance is the material from Peter Fulton of Seaford, Victoria, Australia, regarding a Maritime Archaeological Unit in which sport divers participate in finds and digs. There are lots of good photographs and good information coming up in future Technifacts. ➤

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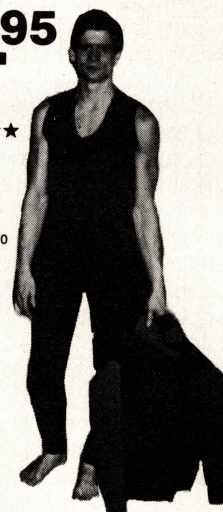
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
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
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LAST FRONTIER

Mark M. Lawrence, working as co-cinematographer for John Stoneman of Marko Films, Ltd., has just finished filming the sixth episode for the television series *The Last Frontier*. The series will air next fall. Lawrence is employed by Professional Diving Schools of Florida Inc. 


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Dr. Dan Langone, of New Rochelle, New York is this year's grand prize winner of the PADI Turn a Friend onto Diving Sweepstakes. He will receive a deluxe dive vacation package at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Bob Tseng, owner of the Westchester Dive Center, gave Langone the news. 

RARE SCORPIONFISH

The New York Aquarium now has on exhibit a green-lace scorpionfish *Rhinopias aphanes* (see SKIN DIVER September 1982), thanks to the efforts of New York Zoological Society trustee Nixon Griffis. The animal was found in 20 feet of water on the outer reef southeast of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.


Marine experts consider the green-lace to be among the rarest and most spectacular of the scorpionfishes. The fish was first discovered in 1973. A second specimen was not seen until 1980. The aquarium specimen is one of approximately 10 known in the world and the first exhibited in the Americas. The fish is approximately six inches long and resembles a latticework of lace in black and green. It has a silver teardrop mark below each eye.

The New York Aquarium is on West 8th Street and the Boardwalk in Coney Island, Brooklyn, and opens at 10:00 am every day of the year. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children through 12 years old. 

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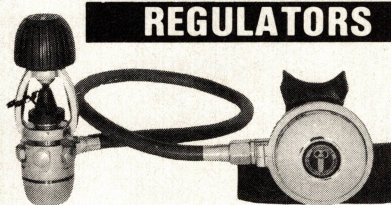
The workshop will take place on April 14-15 at Manatee Springs State Park near Chiefland, Florida, and will be open to representatives of all sport diving instructional agencies. Participants successfully completing both lecture and water work will receive an NACD Cavern Diver certification.

For further information, contact: Charlie Vallance at the Florida Institute of Technology, Jensen Beach, Florida; or Jim Kasserman, General Manager, National Association for Cave Diving, Inc., P.O. Box 14492, Gainesville, Florida 32604, (904) 377-1766. 

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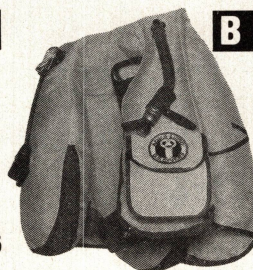
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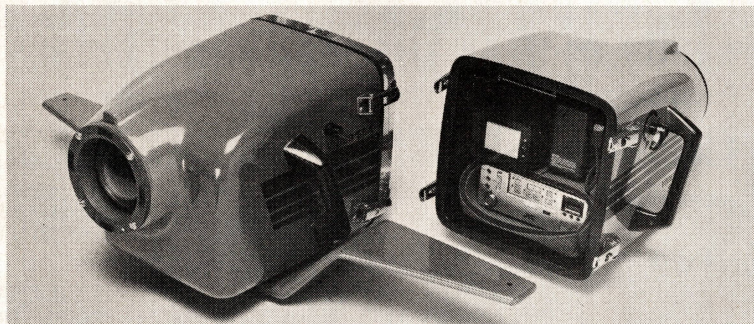


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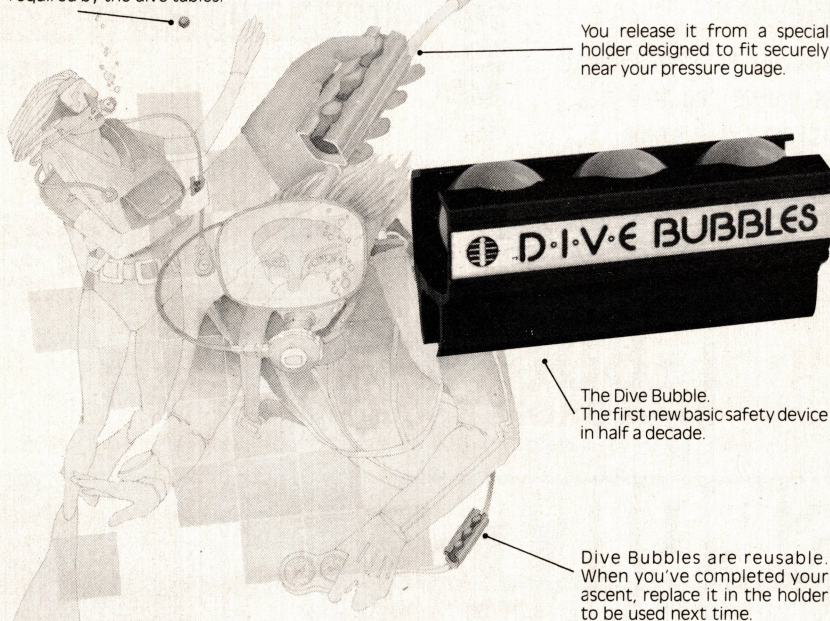
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ARTIFICIAL REEFS

BY DR. HEYWARD MATHEWS

You are diving on a beautiful coral reef. The ridges reach upward from white sandy bottoms in a colorful display of tropical marine life unequaled anywhere. Then, as you glide over the next coral ridge, you are confronted with the rusted hull of an old car body. It seems thoughtless to desecrate such natural beauty, even if there are several large grouper and snapper hiding in the old car's trunk and engine area. You ask the question—who needs artificial reefs in an area where natural coral reefs abound? The answer, surprisingly, is that the fish and the coral now need such reefs if they are to survive the ever-increasing pressure of divers and fishermen.

Using artificial reefs to attract food and game fish to areas easily accessible to fishermen is not a new idea. Divers have long known that a wreck is an excellent place to find large populations of not only food and game fish but also colorful tropical species. Sport fishermen in the United States began building artificial reefs of old car bodies in the 1950s, but commercial fishermen in Japan were even then developing prefabricated concrete structures to serve as fish habitats. At first, these reefs were thought to be simply a means of concentrating existing fish populations into an area easily accessible to fishermen. Then, in 1966, the author completed a master's thesis that indicated these reefs, when built within the sunlit photic zone, can actually increase the basic food production of the sea by providing suitable substrate for benthic algae (benthic means bottom dwelling). This increase in basic food production then supports a larger fish and invertebrate population. Published scientific studies by the author and others have shown that artificial reefs, when sited and built correctly, can actually support a larger total fish population than a natural reef, even a tropical coral reef. To many a biologist that statement is close to blasphemy. To think that anything manmade could improve upon a natural community is almost unthinkable. But this is actually an established fact and the reasons are not so complicated when you stop and think about it. A coral reef grows in such a manner as to maximize coral survival; fish that live on the reef are incidental to the coral's growth patterns. With an artificial reef, the fishery biologist is deliberately shaping the substrate so as to maximize fish habitat. We have even learned to design different types of artificial reefs

for different types of fish. If we want large populations of benthic fish species, like grouper and snapper, we build a reef with a medium profile and lots of open spaces up under the material. If we wish to attract pelagic species, like mackerel, amberjack and barracuda, then we build a reef with a high profile but lots of open space within the upper structures.

Any experienced diver knows what it is like to swim over an open sand or mud bottom, a barren desert with only a few sand dollars or sand perch to break the monotony. But once you find some relief on the bottom, it becomes an oasis of marine life. The name "artificial reef" is maybe misleading at first, because the only thing artificial is the original substrate. All the marine communities that grow in the reef and are attracted to it are natural and are the same basic species that populate natural reefs in that area. Any hard surface will provide attachment for these benthic communities, but materials that do not deteriorate in sea water such as concrete, fiberglass and synthetic rubber, provide the most durable types of reefs. Unfortunately, a few artificial reefs in the past have been built in areas where wave action was able to dislodge the materials or the bottom was too soft, so the reef lost much of its effectiveness after a few years. If built correctly in an appropriate site, however, an artificial reef will continue to provide fish with a habitat for literally thousands of years. How many things can we build today that we can be sure are going to be beneficial to nature 2000 years in the future?

Okay, so you agree artificial reefs may be useful along coastlines that are devoid of natural reefs, but why build them in tropical waters where coral reefs grow? Tropical waters of the Florida Keys and the islands of the Caribbean abound with natural coral reefs, so they need no help from man, right? Wrong! To begin with, the fringing types of coral reefs that occur in these waters are by no means complete in their coverage of the seafloor. The normal occurrence may be a three to five acre reef surrounded by several miles of open sand bottom. Often these reef patches may be some distance from marinas or boat ramps, requiring long boat runs burning expensive fuel to reach the dive spot. So, why not build an artificial reef closer to the marina for diving on those days when the weather is not optimal or when those end-of-the-month cash shortages require shorter runs? Recent innovations in reef-building technology, developed mainly in Japan, have produced very effective reefs that can be built without heavy equipment and large barges. These reefs can help the diver or the fisherman, but how can they actually help the coral reef? You would never place an artificial reef on top of or even adjacent to a natural coral reef. This would increase the fish population but at the expense of what is already present.

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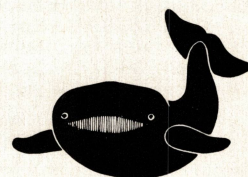
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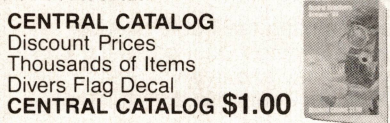
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ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Rather the artificial reef should be at least one-half mile, preferably farther, from the natural reef. Any coral reef receiving heavy diving and fishing pressure is going to begin to show signs of stress. Anchors will break coral and heavy fishing will begin to deplete the population of larger predatory fish. Nearby artificial reefs can take much of this pressure off natural reefs, thereby allowing the natural reefs to replenish themselves. The beautiful thing about artificial reefs is that there is literally no saturation point on their construction. If we double the available fish habitat, we can double the fish population, double it again, and again double the fish. The reason for this is that most marine fish can produce literally millions of eggs, but only those few that find suitable habitat and food will grow to maturity. So, increase the substrate and you will increase a proportional amount of the fish population. The early artificial reefs in this country were built from old car bodies and even some old wooden trolley cars. These initially attracted large populations, but in a few years they deteriorated. One theory was that the marine life covering the car bodies would remain after the metal rusted away, but this is not the case, so thin metal structures such as car bodies are no longer used. Old tires are almost impervious to deterioration in sea water and are readily available in most coastal areas. However, the tires must be vented or split to allow the entrapped air to escape and must also be ballasted with concrete to be stable in the water at depths less than 100 feet. Some tire reefs that were not well ballasted have shifted off their original site; a few even washed up on adjacent beaches after a storm. It only takes a few foulups like this to hurt reef building throughout the country. The technology and expertise to properly select a reef site and the proper materials suited for each area are readily available from universities and fish and game agencies in most parts of the country today. Recent improvements in Loran C have now made it possible to actually build a small artificial reef for one's own private use.

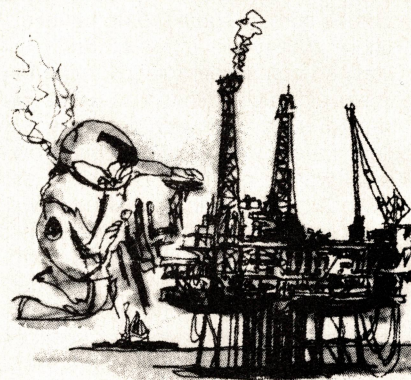
So, the next time your dive club is searching for a worthwhile activity, why not consider building an artificial reef, either alone or in conjunction with local angling organizations? Such cooperative projects have occurred around Florida, and not only improved fishing and diving, but improved relations between fishermen and divers. Additional information on artificial reef site selection, materials and construction, and artificial reef buoys can be obtained by writing Florida Sea Grant in Gainesville, Florida. ➤

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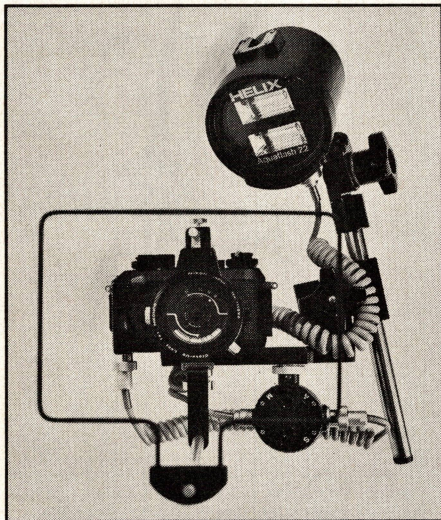
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BRENNAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

College of Oceaneering students Doug Rubino and Michael Sass are co-recipients of the Deborah Allen Brennan Memorial Scholarship. The award is sponsored by the college and jointly administered by NAUI and the college.

A new Hampshire native, Rubino was certified in pre-flight science from the Islap (NY) Vocational Technical School.

Sass is a native of Michigan and earned a B.A. degree in Industrial Arts from Western Michigan University. He is a NAUI instructor and has traveled extensively. His most recent assignment as an industrial arts teacher was at the Stanger American School in Norway.

The scholarship, awarded annually since 1979, was named after the first female to successfully complete the course in commercial diving at the then named Commercial Diving Center. 🐡

SOTO'S DREAM VACATION

A Texas scuba instructor won a diver's dream vacation when his ticket was drawn for the grand gate prize at a Cayman Islands promotion party held recently in Houston. Tom Howard, who teaches at a branch of the YMCA in League City, was awarded a week's holiday for two, with transportation courtesy of Cayman Airways; lodging at the Grand Caymanian Holiday Inn; and unlimited diving with Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. 🐡

DIVESPORTS MOVE

Divesports Publishing, publisher of *Diver's Guide to Underwater America*, has moved its offices from Branson, Missouri to Austin, Texas. Anyone wishing to make dealer inquiries or purchase a book should write to Divesports Publishing, P.O. Box 1397, Austin, Texas 78767-1397; or call (512) 443-5883. 🐡

GREENSTONE AWARD WINNER

The 1984 recipient of the Leonard Greenstone Diving Safety Award is Arthur J. Bachrach, Ph.D. The presentation was made by NAUI president Larry Cushman at IQ 14, held in Chicago.

Dr. Bachrach joined an elite group of awardees, including Dr. Lee Somers, Dr. Glen Egstrom, Dr. Jefferson Davis, Merrill Spencer, the late Dr. Charlie Brown and Bill High. The award consists of a sculpture depicting Poseidon standing on a large piece of green jade and a cash gift of \$500.

Dr. Bachrach is currently the director of the Environmental Stress Program Center at the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. 🐡

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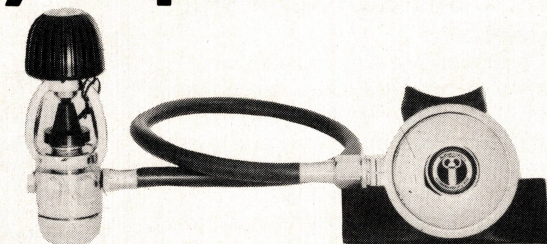
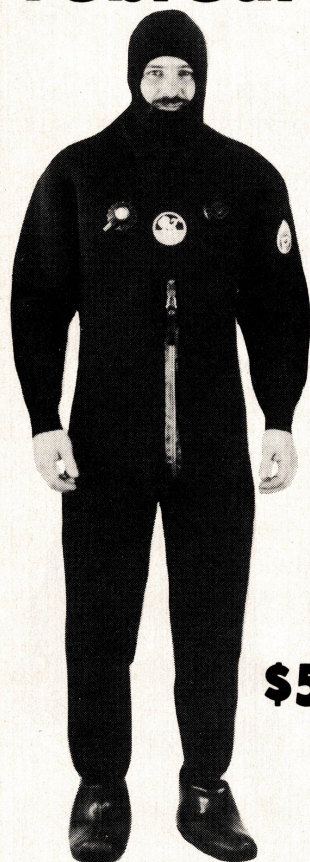
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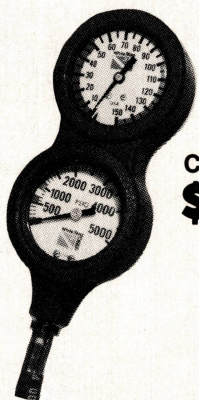
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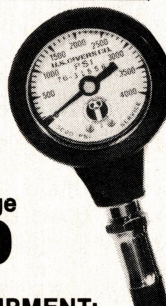


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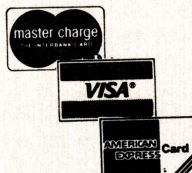
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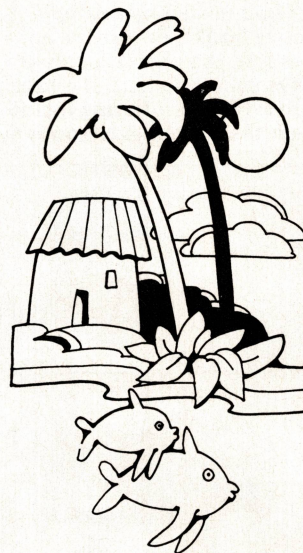


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DIVER'S PARADISE 305/553-2822
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Most brands, sales, air, rental, service,
dive trips, classes, export. Se habla Espanol.

DIVERS UNLIMITED 305/981-0156
6023 Hollywood Bl., Hollywood, FL 33024
All brands, wholesale, retail, repair, rental, daily boat
trips. Awarded #1 training facility by PADI.

DIVERS UNLIMITED/MARATHON 305/743-7262
800/327-2740
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Daily boat trips, training dives, classes, retail-all brands,
leisure wear, rentals. Packages with Holiday Inn.

DIXIE DIVERS, INC. 305/461-4488
1717 S. U.S. 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 33450
1843 S.E. Federal Hwy., Stuart, FL 33494
PADI 5 Star facilities, open 7 days, full service.

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Dive with the best. Bahama trips available.

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One of the worlds largest divg. stores & school. Indoor heated pool.

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2700 E. Atlantic Bl., Pompano Beach, FL 33062
2104 W. Oakland Park Bl., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311
305/735-6227

NORINE ROUSE SCUBA CLUB OF THE PALM BEACHES 305/844-2466
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A membership club for certified divers.
Dive trips 6 days a week.

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Daily dive trips to over 50 sites, reefs and wrecks.
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Marina. Daily trips to Alligator Reef and Coral Gardens. Group instr.,
diving and room pkg. prices. Next door at Holiday Inn, Islamorada.

CAPT. CHAMBERS' TRIANGLE DIVE CENTER, INC. 305/451-1805
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Drift dives avail. Recommended by Undercurrents, 3/82.

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51 Garden Cove Dr., Key Largo, FL 33037 MM.106.5
305/451-1325
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Moon Bay deluxe 2 BR, 1 1/2 bath w/dock, sleeps 6.
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\$275 per week May-November.

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FL-800/432-2875
22 Passenger Boat. US-800/327-7070
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sauna, tennis. Minutes from best dive areas.

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KEY SEA CENTER 305/872-2319
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KEY WEST PRO DIVE SHOP 305/296-3823
1805 N. Roosevelt Bl., Key West, FL 33040
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Write for information on adventure dives.

LADY CYANA DIVERS 305/664-8717
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PADI training facility. Nicest staff in Keys. We beat any deal.

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808/822-9422
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Fascinating, fun charters. Dvg. w/ a difference, we care!	
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RR-1 Box 56, Koloa, Kauai, HI 96756	
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Certification classes, daily tours, boat charters.	
KONA COAST SKIN DIVER	808/329-8802
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MAUI DIVE SHOP	808/879-3388
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OCEAN ACTIVITIES CENTER	808/879-4485
P.O. Box 1082, Kihei, HI 96753	
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SANDWICH ISLE DIVERS/NIGHT DIVE HAWAII	808/329-9188
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or see your travel agent.	
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BERRY SCUBA	
6674 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631	312/763-1626
#26A Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL 60148	312/495-2822
1717 Rand Rd., Palatine, IL 60067	312/358-3848
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DIVERS DEN, INC.	301/668-6866
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Large enough to serve you, small enough to know you.	
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AQUA-DIVE SCUBA CENTER, INC.	617/331-6700
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Wreck diving our specialty.	

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SCUBA NORTH, INC.	616/947-2520
13258 W. Bayshore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684	
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SPUD'S UNDERWATER OUTFITTERS	313/363-2224
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403 Sonderen, St. Charles, MO 63376	314/946-5300

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SUB-OCEAN SERVICES	201-437-8683
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Most complete pro service in eastern New Mexico.	

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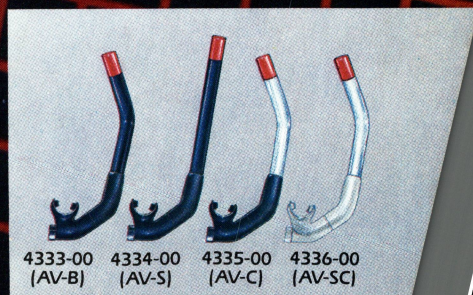
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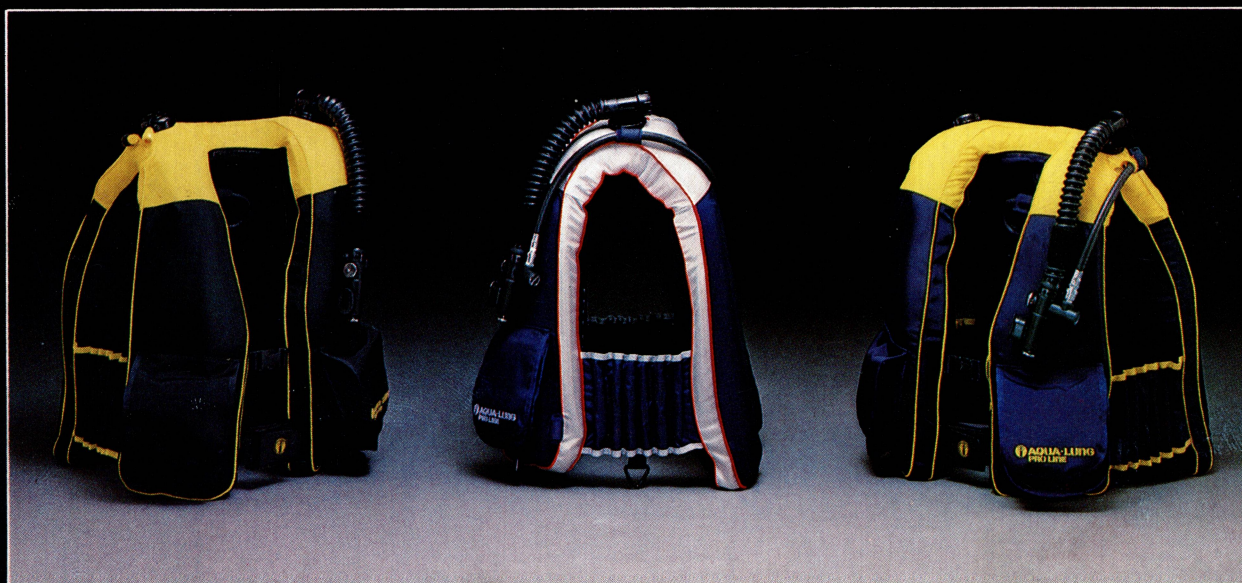


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The reason: Underneath the tough, all-nylon exterior lies a unique inner bladder of triple urethane-laminated nylon. This revolutionary bladder has a patented system of baffling to channel the air into low profile pockets of inflation.

But don't let its compact size fool you. The Pro Line B.C. is loaded with the features you'd expect from the industry leader.


Like self-adjusting, expandable side panels. An oral/L.P. inflator with integral manual dump, interchangeable from right to left shoulder. An overpressure relief valve with manual dump for quick-action buoyancy control. And two Velcro-held utility pockets, one of which is fashioned for quick retrieval of emergency regulator.

Put an end to ballooning inflation. Try on the most comfortable buoyancy compensator you'll ever wear at the authorized Aqua-Lung® Pro Line Dealer near you!



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